

## GURU ARJAN

When Guru Ramdas chose his youngest son, Arjanmal, to succeed him as the fifth guru of the Sikhs, it created a lot of ill-will in his eldest son, Prithichand. But the choice was not wrong. Guru Arjan was the very embodiment of love, humility and courage. His greatest contribution to Sikhism was the compilation of the Guru Granth Sahib and the construction of the Har Mandir Sahib in Amritsar. He was the first Sikh martyr and by his death inspired his followers to uphold the truth under any pressure.

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VISIONARIES



# GURU ARJAN

THE MAN WHO KNEW NO FEAR

Vol 740 | ₹50



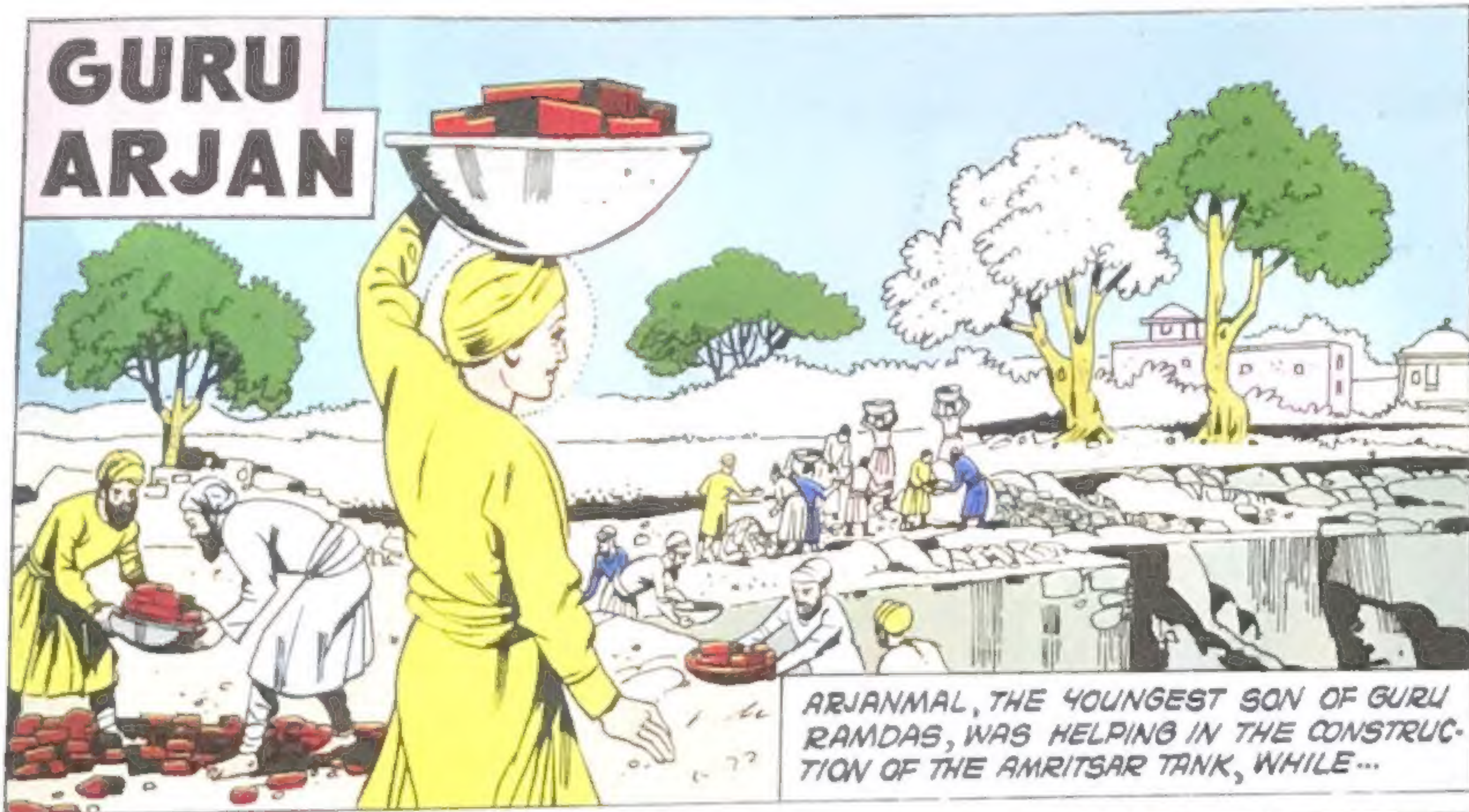
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# GURU ARJAN

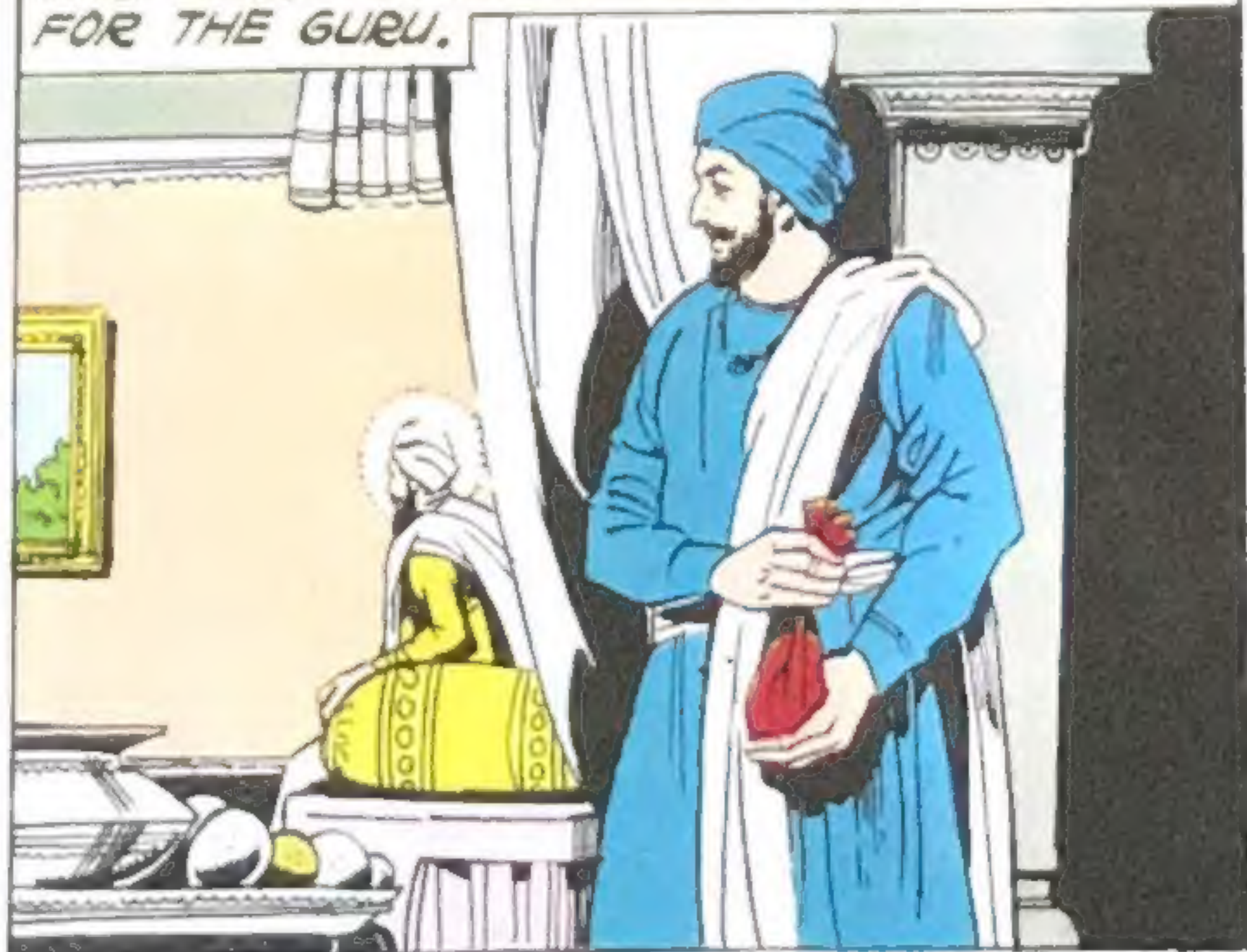


ARJANMAL, THE YOUNGEST SON OF GURU RAMDAS, WAS HELPING IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AMRITSAR TANK, WHILE...

...HIS ELDER BROTHER MAHADEV WAS IN MEDITATION...



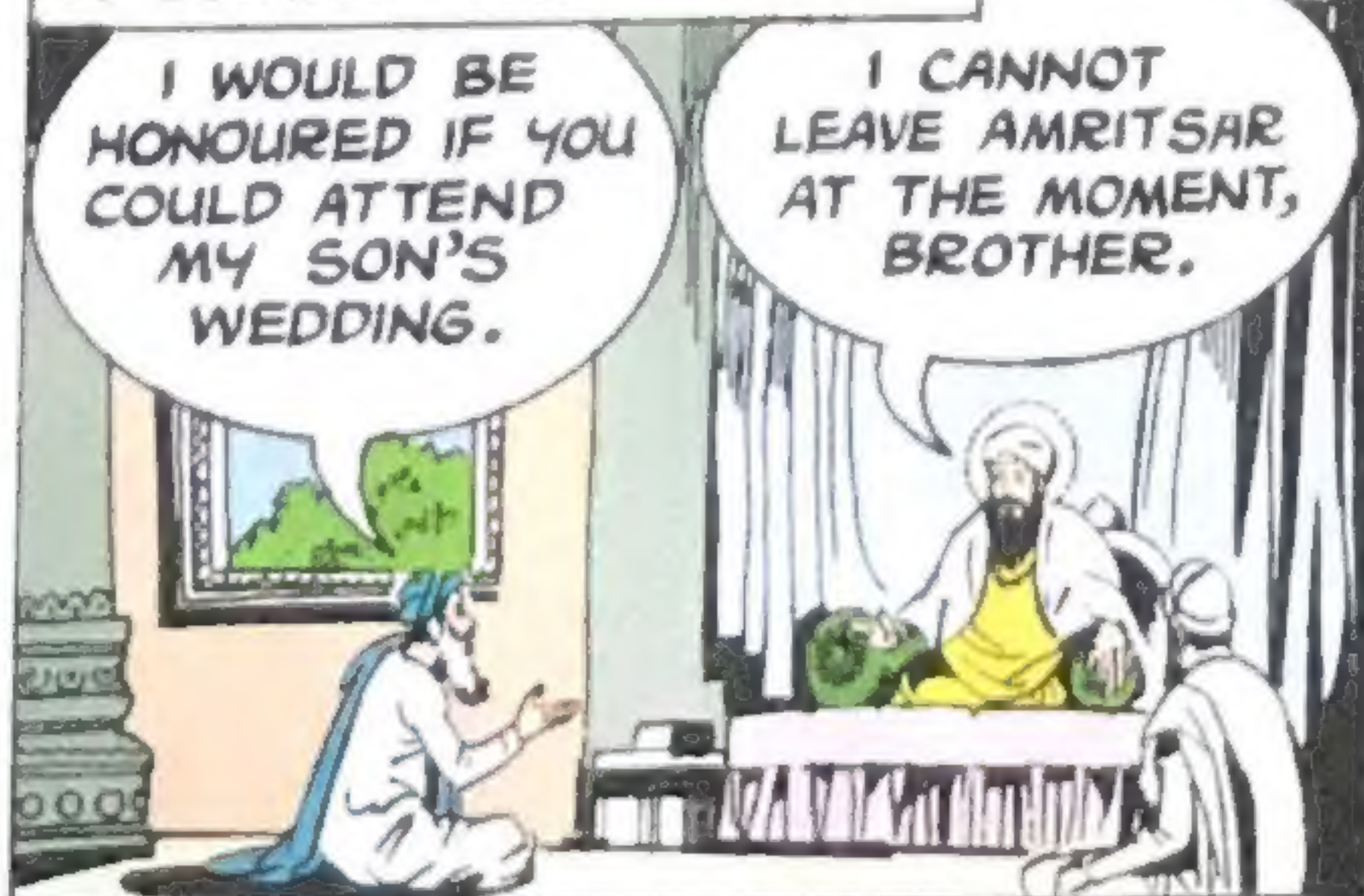
...AND HIS ELDEST BROTHER, PRITHICHAND, WAS BUSY POCKETING THE OFFERINGS MEANT FOR THE GURU.



THE GURU HIMSELF WAS TALKING TO A COUSIN FROM LAHORE.

I WOULD BE HONoured IF YOU COULD ATTEND MY SON'S WEDDING.

I CANNOT LEAVE AMRITSAR AT THE MOMENT, BROTHER.



BUT ONE OF MY SONS WILL CERTAINLY ATTEND THE WEDDING.





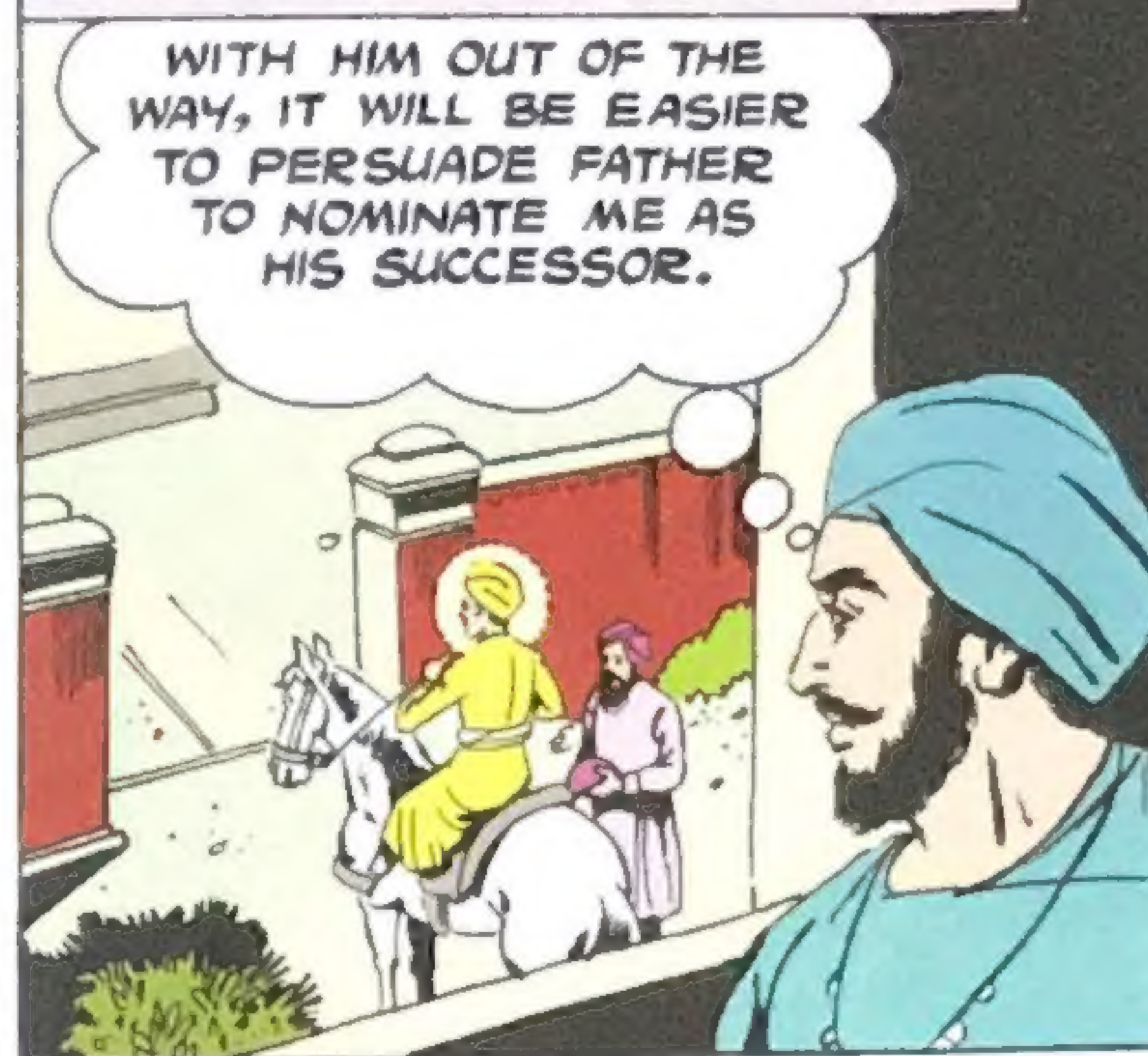
THE GURU SENT FOR HIS SONS AND TOLD THEM ABOUT THE WEDDING AT LAHORE.



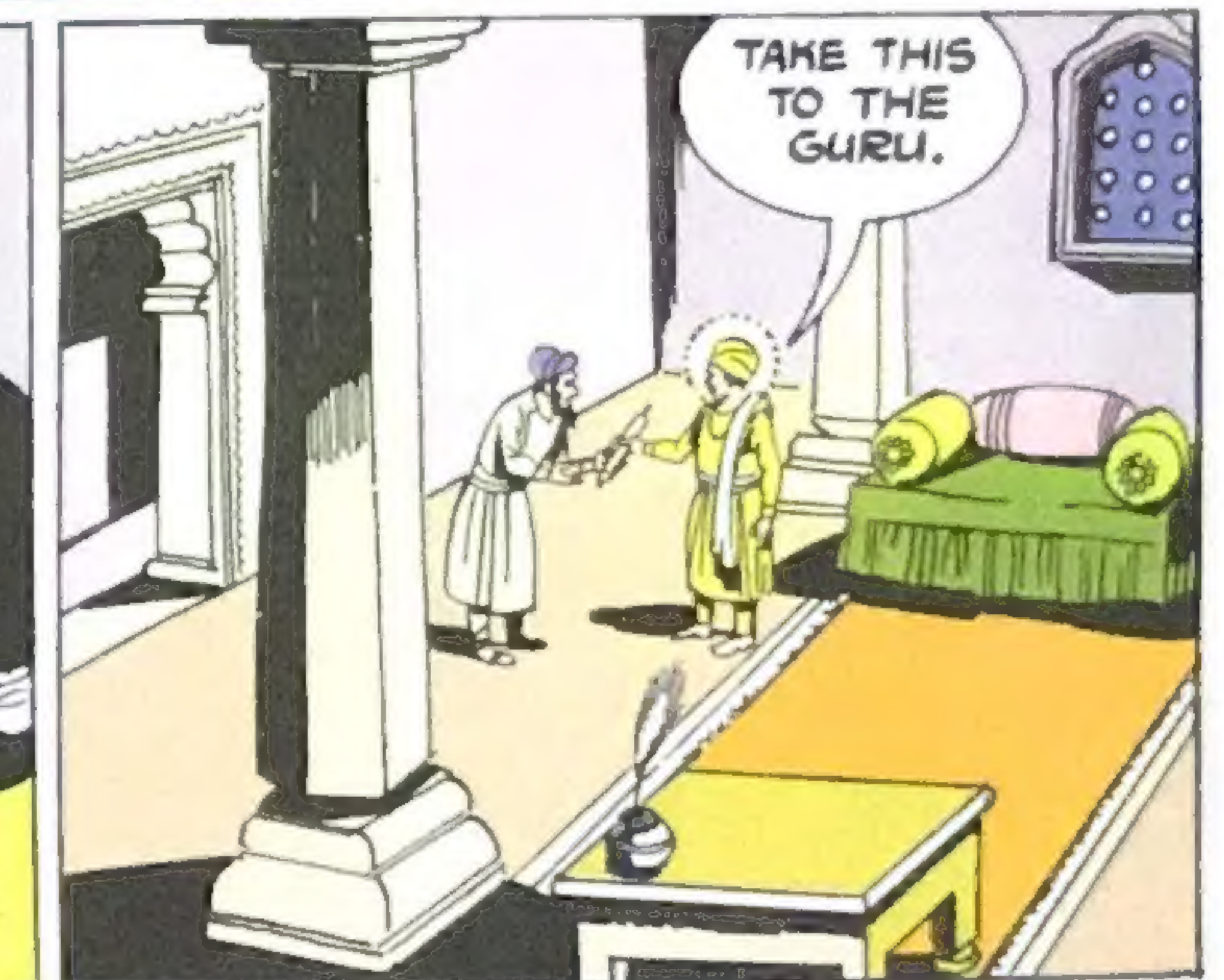
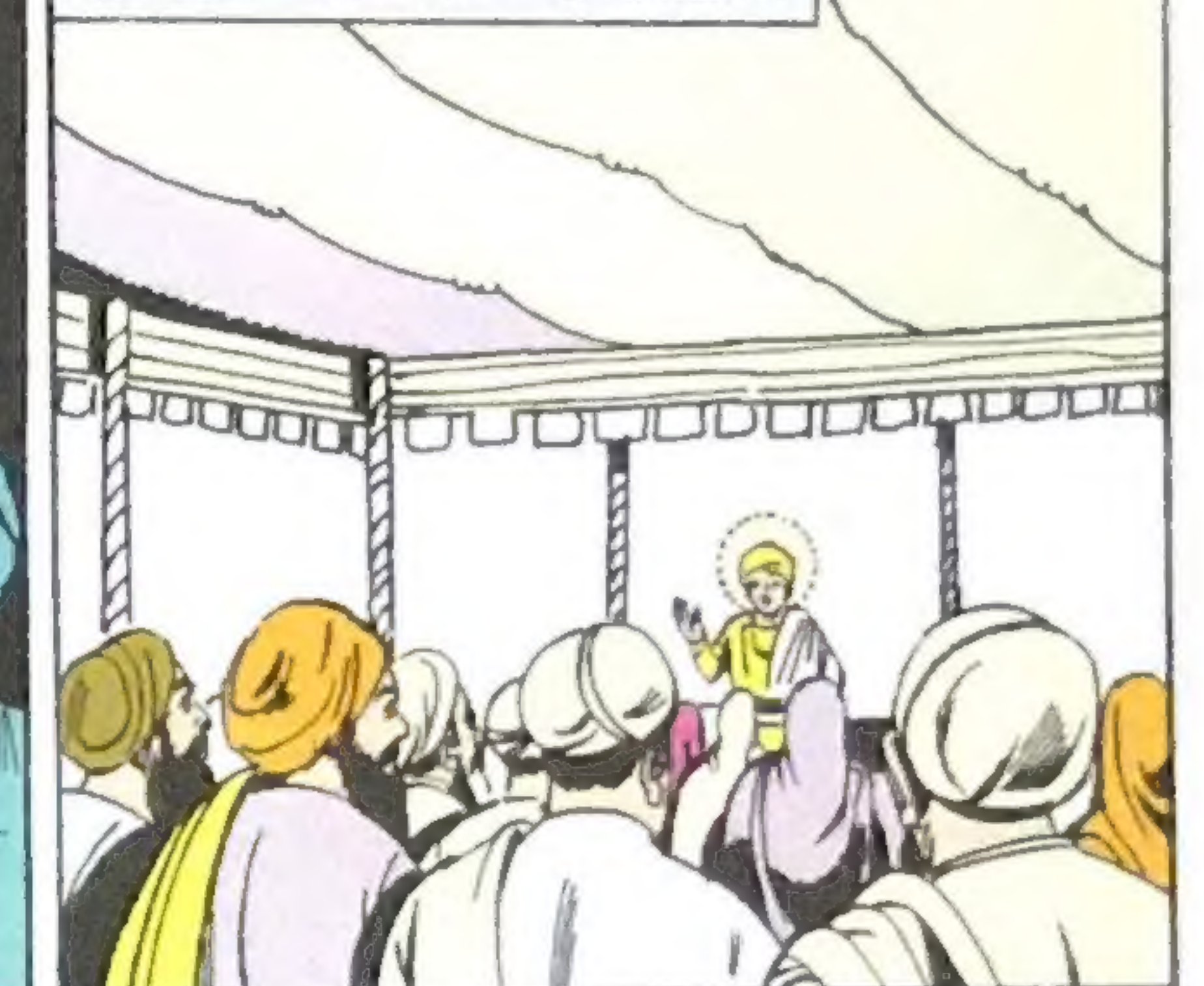
WHEN THE GURU LOOKED AT ARJAN—



AS ARJAN SET OUT FOR LAHORE—



AFTER THE WEDDING, ARJAN STAYED ON AT LAHORE...



WHEN THE MESSENGER RETURNED—



\* A LEGENDARY BIRD WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO DRINK WATER STRAIGHT FROM THE CLOUDS



AFTER A WHILE, ARJAN WROTE AGAIN.



...ARJAN WROTE YET ANOTHER.



WHEN THE GURU RECEIVED THE LETTER HE OPENED IT AT ONCE.



WHY HAS HE MARKED THE LETTER 'THREE'?



BECAUSE THIS IS THE THIRD LETTER HE HAS WRITTEN TO YOU, SIR.



THE THIRD LETTER? WHERE ARE THE OTHER TWO THEN?

I DELIVERED THEM TO PRITHICHAND, SIR.



AT THAT MOMENT, PRITHICHAND WALKED IN.



LETTERS? FROM ARJAN?



JUST THEN PRITHICHAND NOTICED THE MESSENGER.

THE WRETCH! WHO ALLOWED HIM TO MEET THE GURU?



PRITHI, I AM WAITING FOR AN ANSWER.



YES, FATHER. I VAGUELY REMEMBER. YES, YES. ARJAN DID SEND LETTERS... TWO OF THEM...



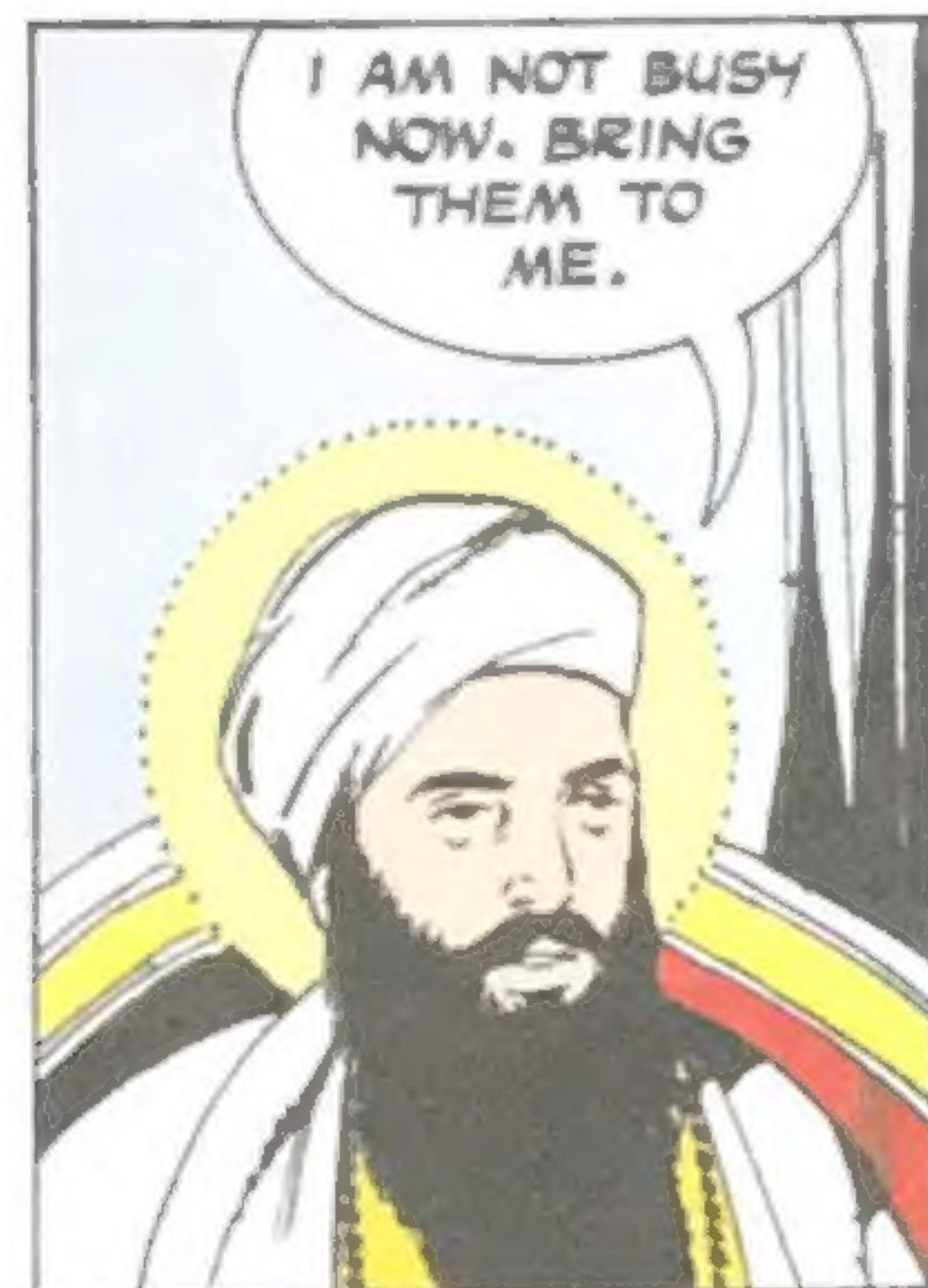
WHY DIDN'T YOU BRING THEM TO ME?



YOU WERE BUSY, FATHER...







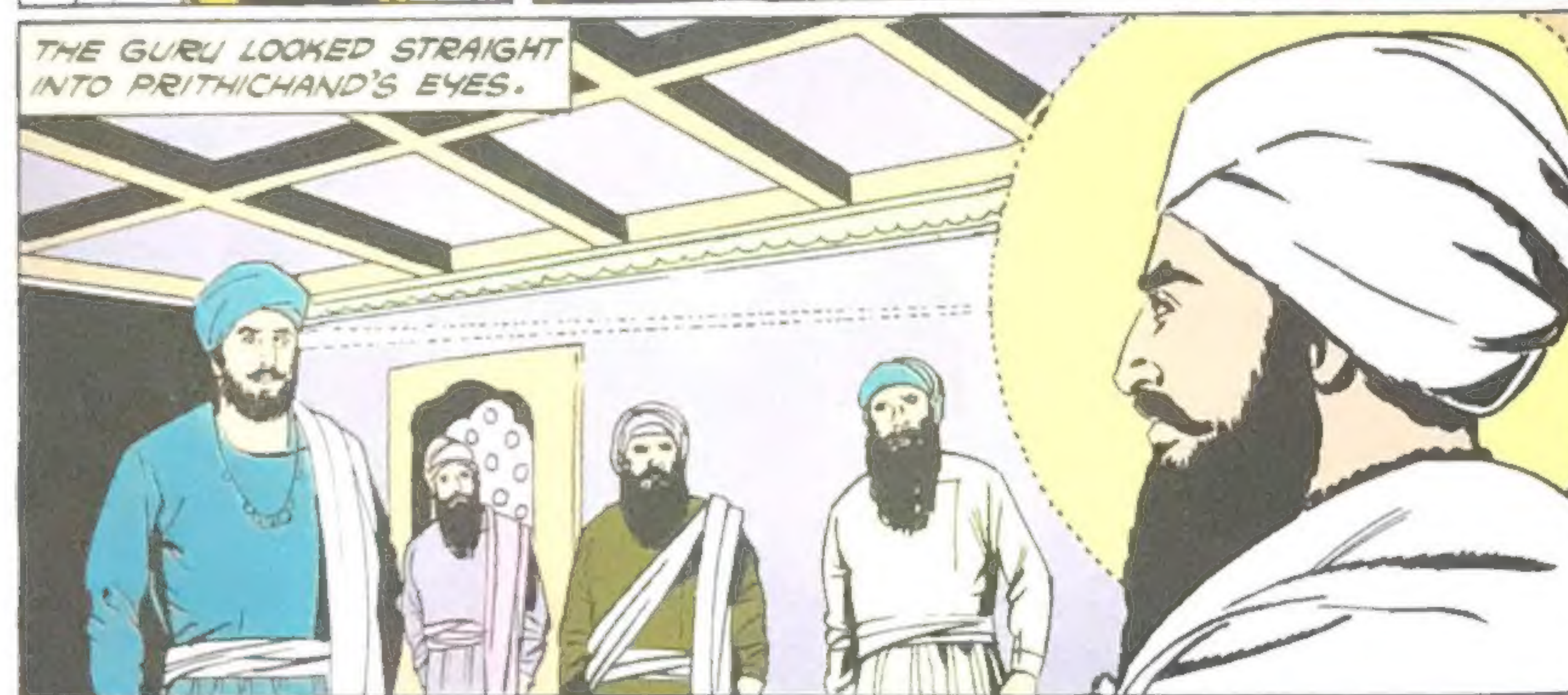
I AM NOT BUSY NOW. BRING THEM TO ME.



IF I LET YOU READ THOSE LETTERS, YOU'LL APPOINT ARJAN AS YOUR SUCCESSOR.



I AM SORRY, FATHER. I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE I KEPT THEM.

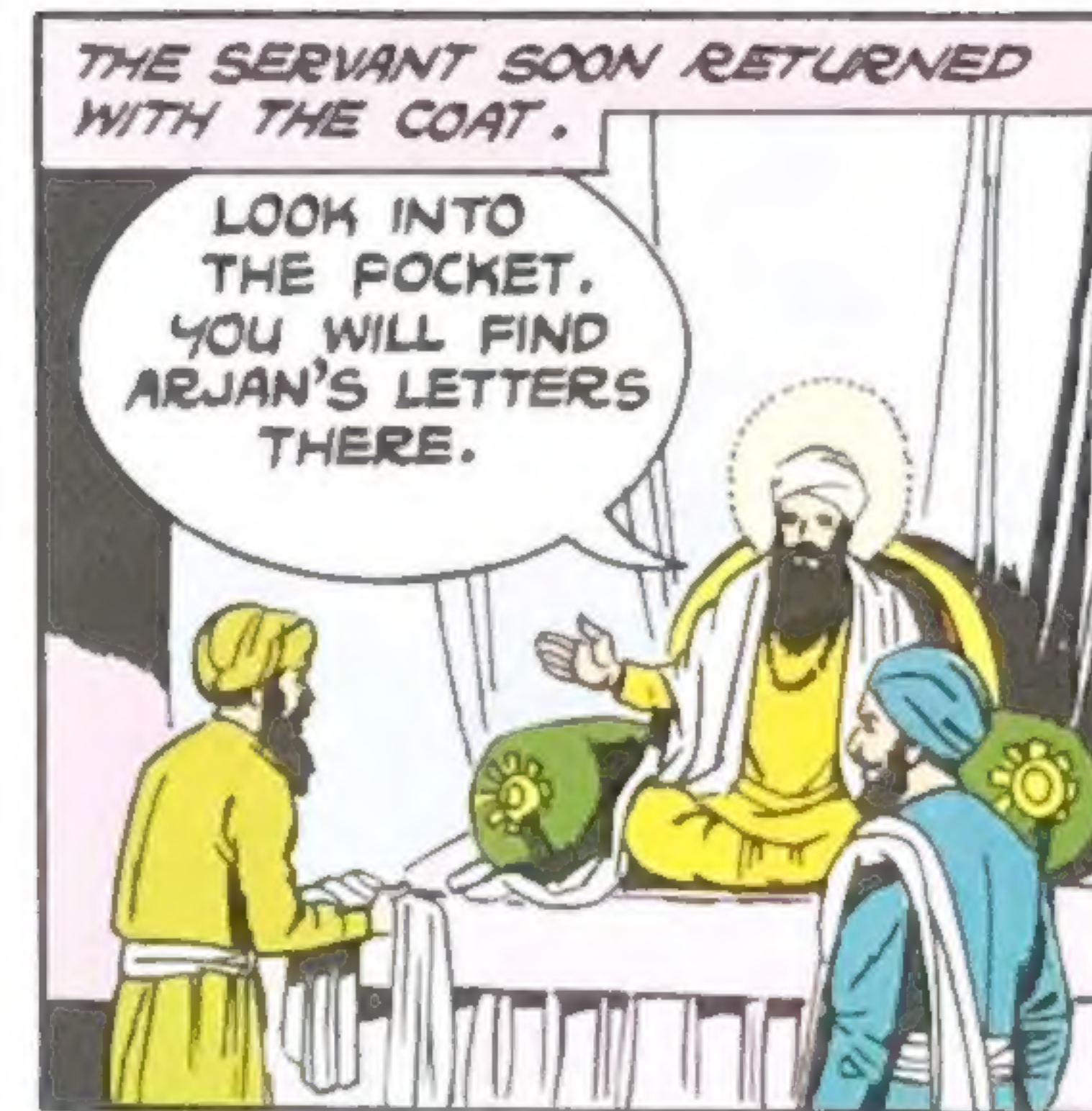


THE GURU LOOKED STRAIGHT INTO PRITHICHAND'S EYES.



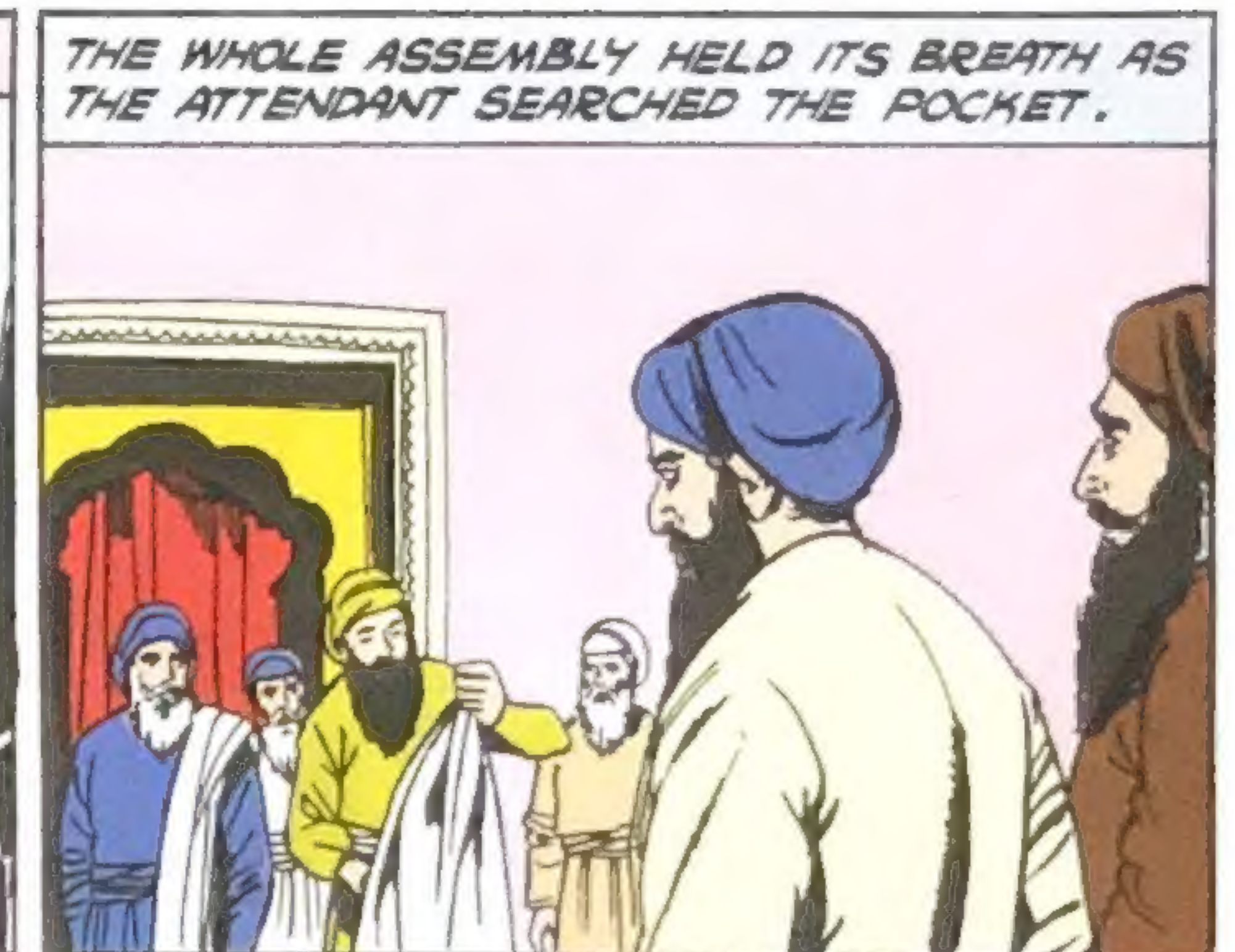
THEN HE TURNED TO ONE OF THE ATTENDANTS.

GO TO PRITHI'S HOUSE AND BRING HIS COAT HERE.



THE SERVANT SOON RETURNED WITH THE COAT.

LOOK INTO THE POCKET. YOU WILL FIND ARJAN'S LETTERS THERE.



THE WHOLE ASSEMBLY HELD ITS BREATH AS THE ATTENDANT SEARCHED THE POCKET.



THE NEXT MINUTE —



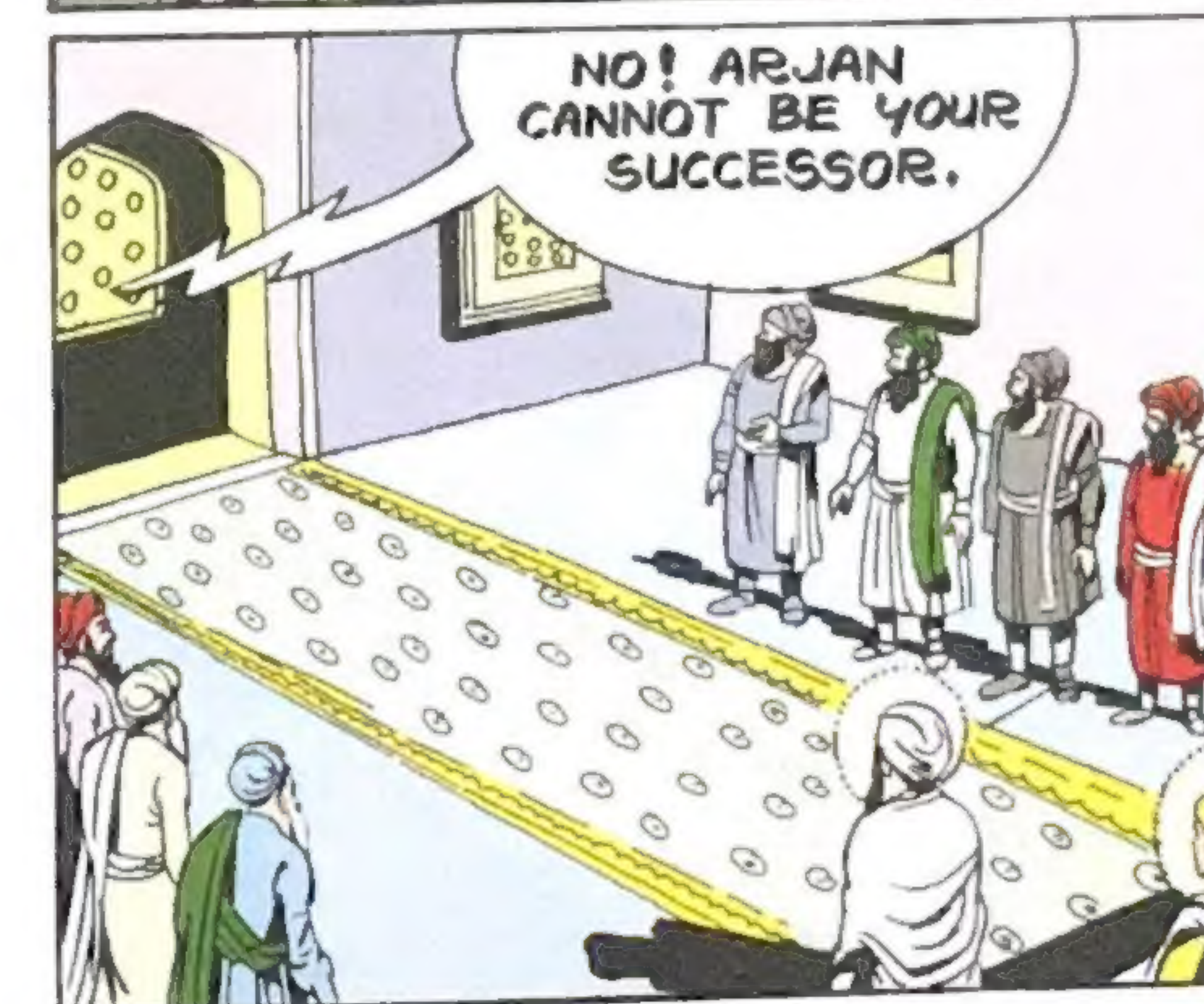
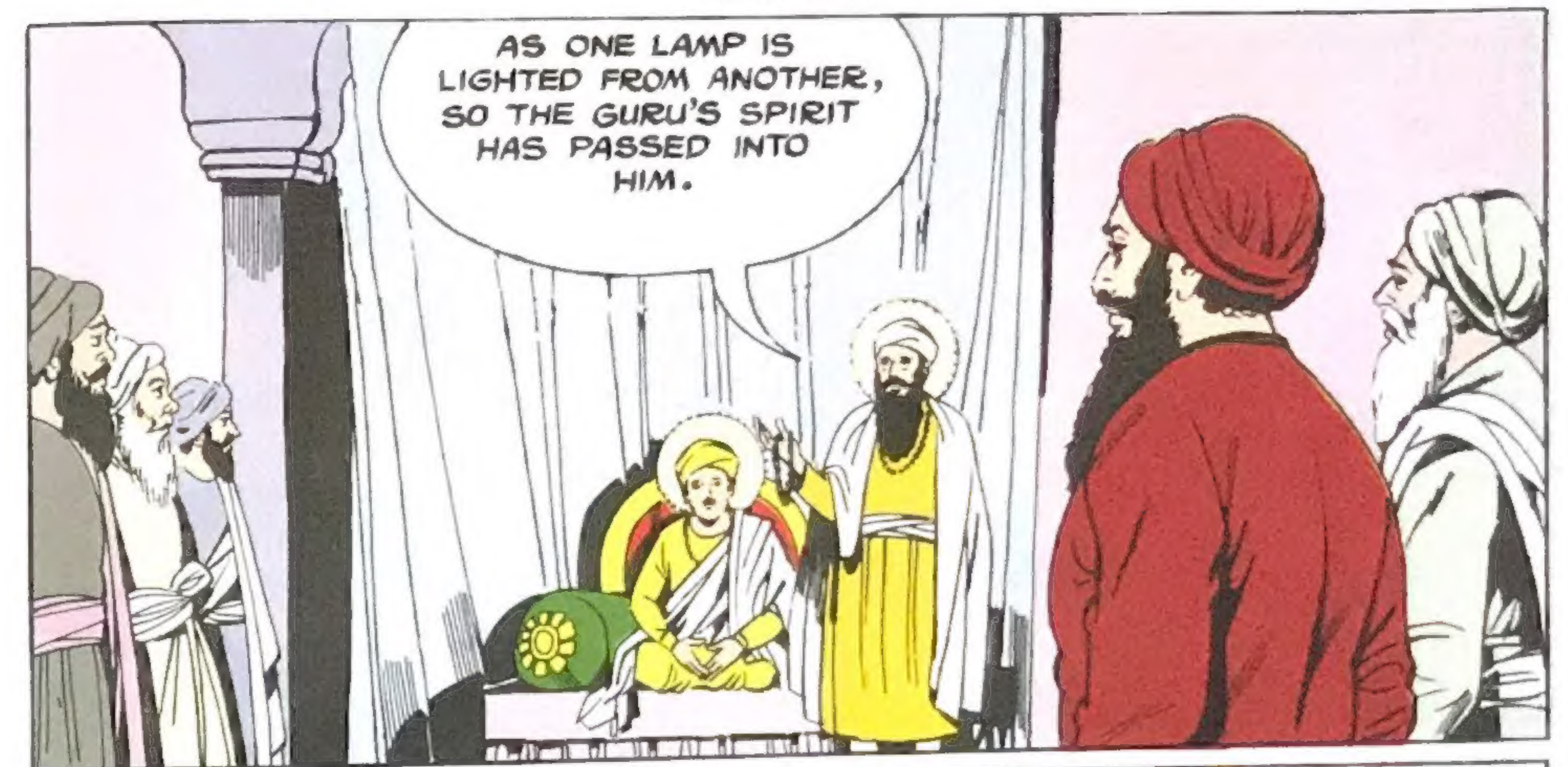
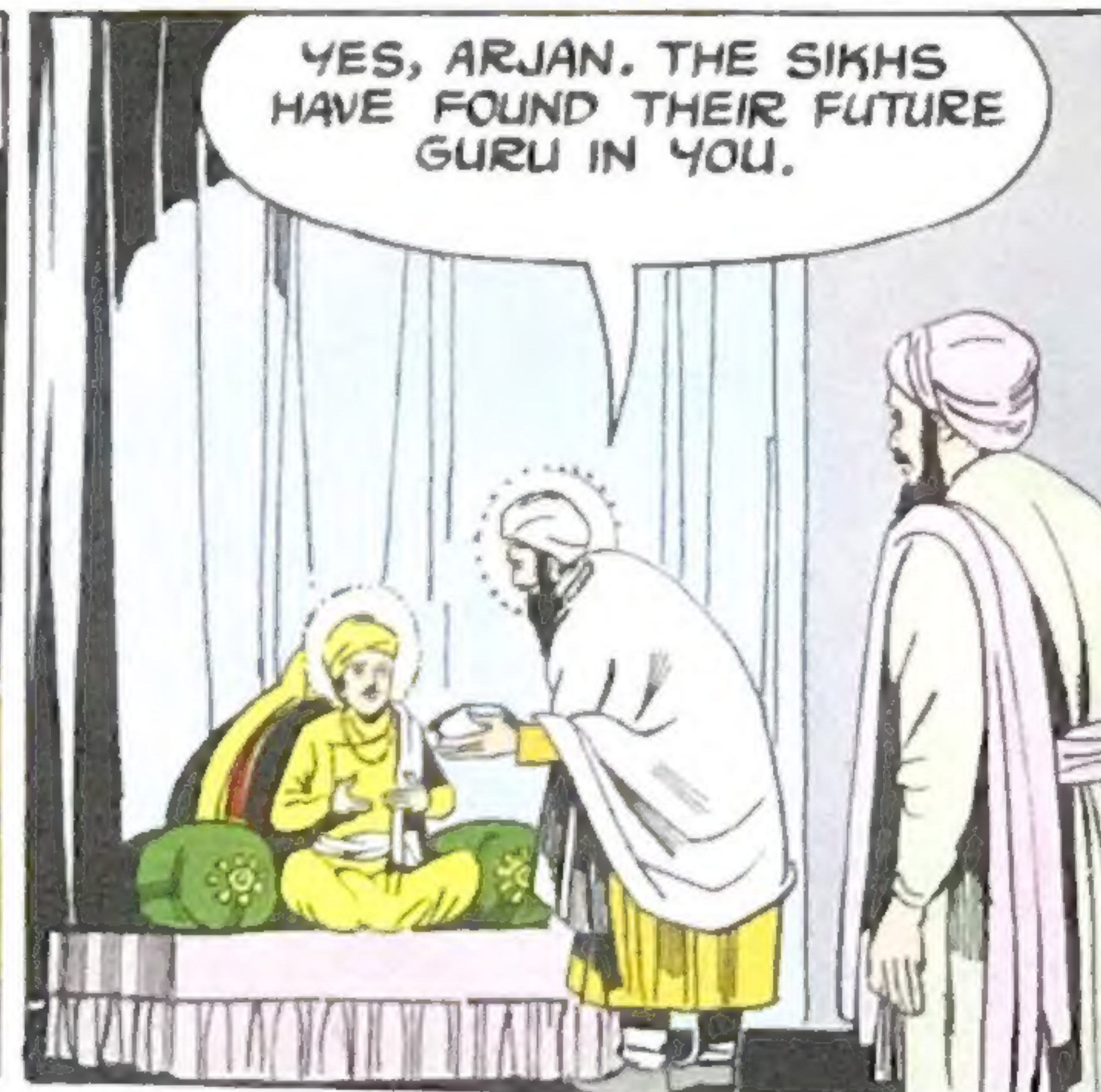
FATHER... I...

NOT A WORD FROM YOU.



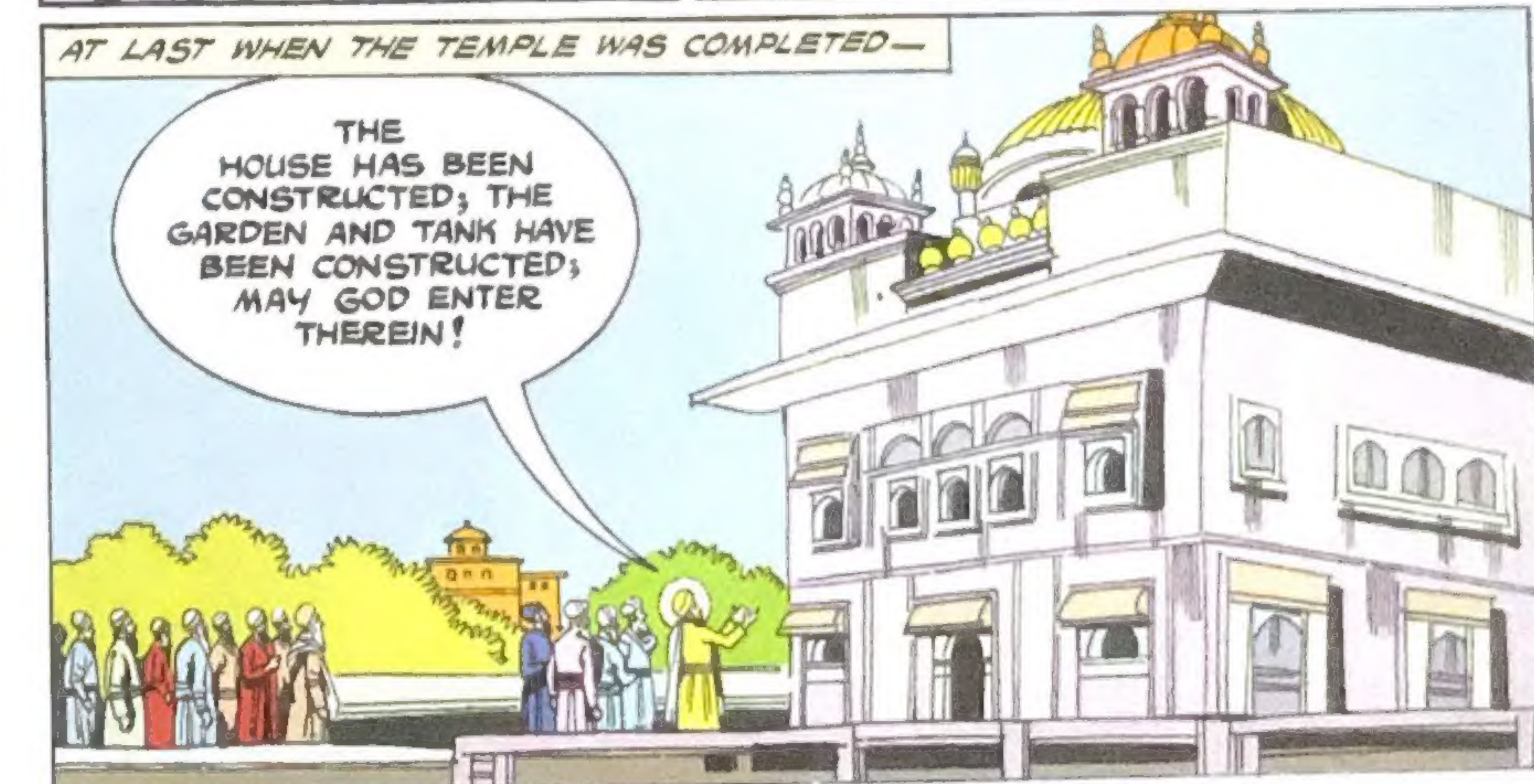
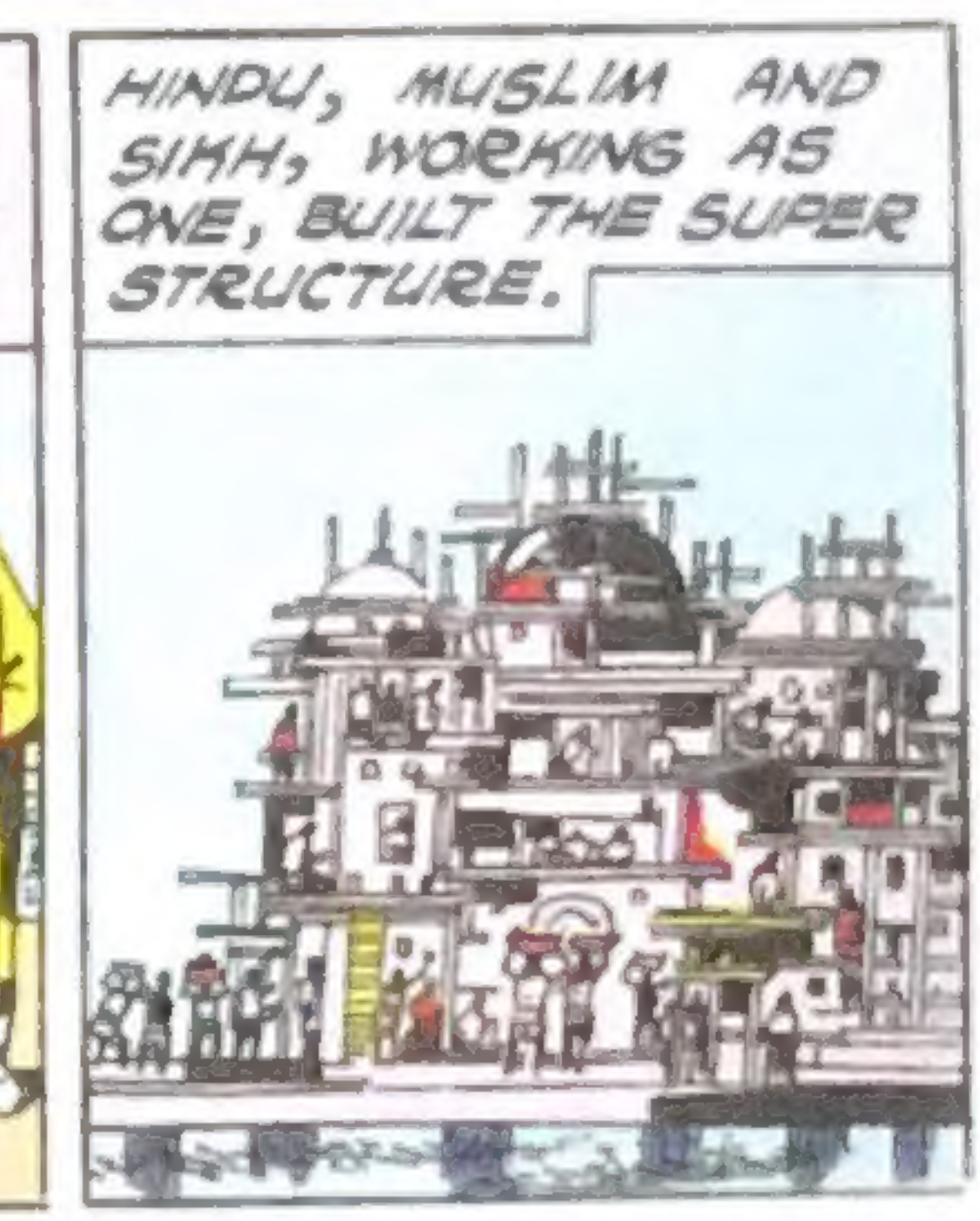
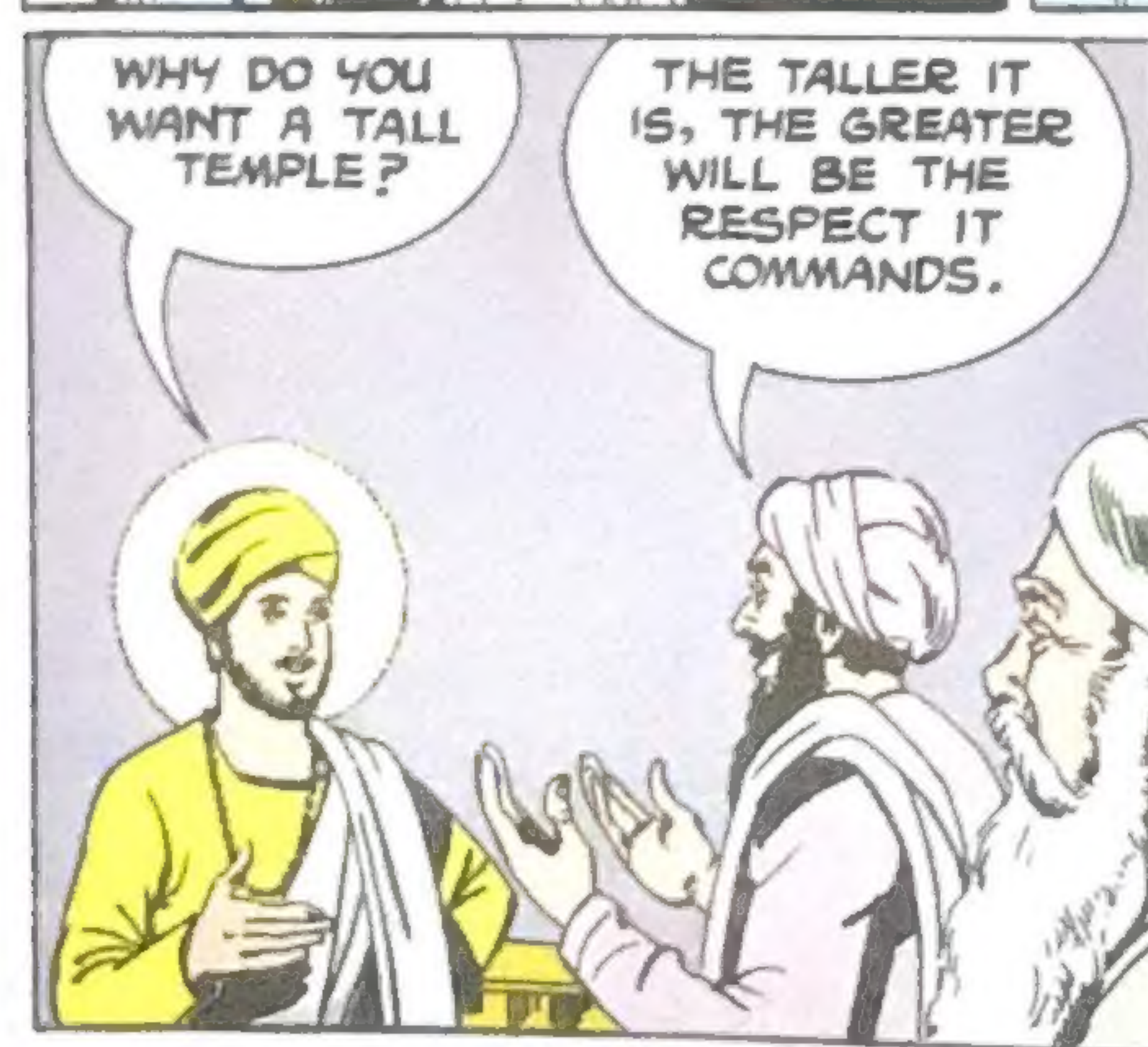
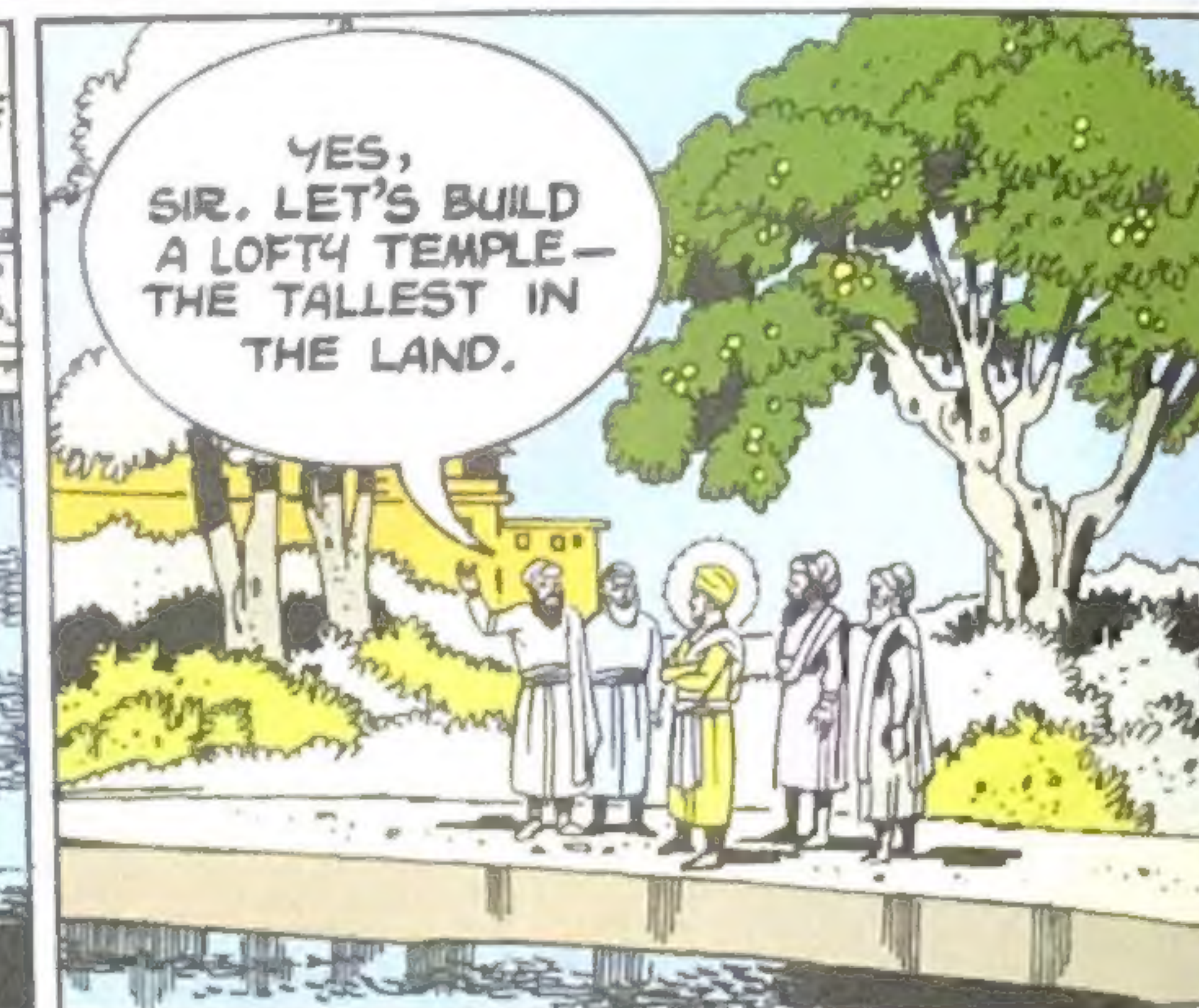
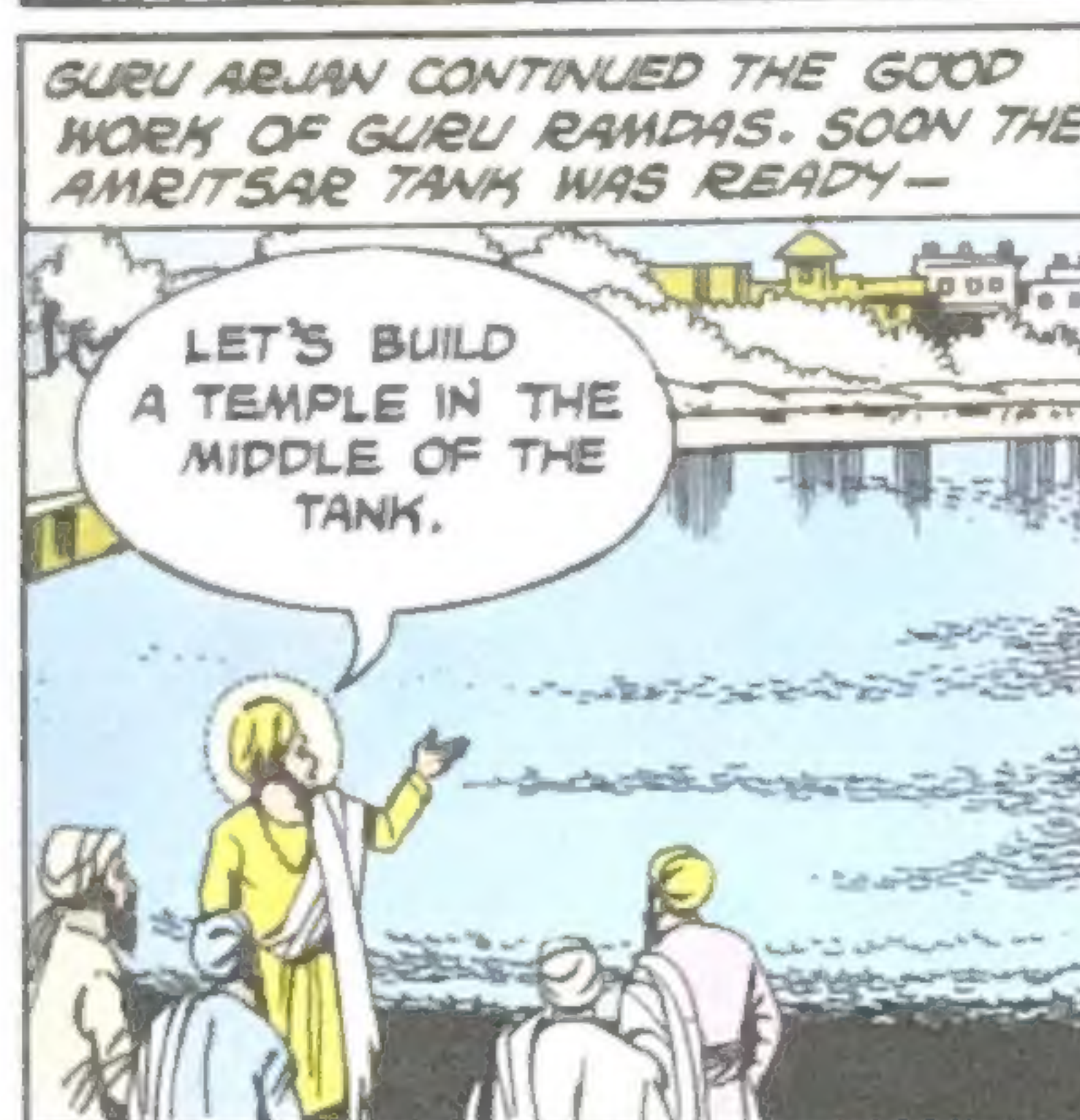
I WANTED ALL OF YOU TO JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES WHETHER PRITHI IS NOBLE OR BASE, OBEDIENT OR DISOBEDIENT.







NOT LONG AFTERWARDS GURU RAMDAS BREATHED HIS LAST. THE EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD ARJAN BECAME THE GURU. ONE DAY—





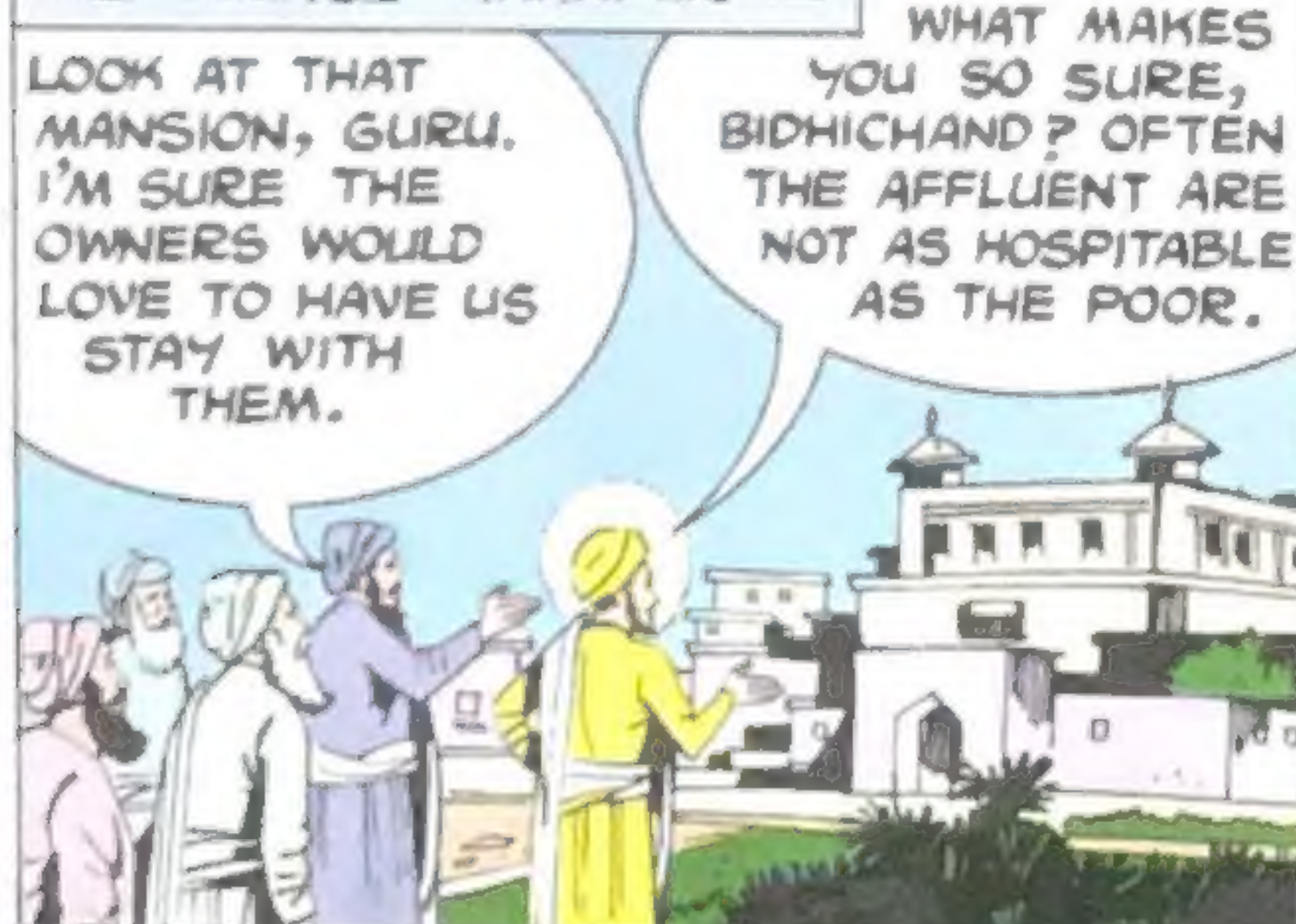
BUT PRITHICHAND'S CONTINUED HOSTILITY DISTURBED THE GURU.



SO, ACCOMPANIED BY FIVE SIKHS, HE LEFT AMRITSAR.



THEY VISITED SEVERAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES. ONCE WHEN THEY WERE PASSING THROUGH THE VILLAGE KHANPUR\*



BUT WHEN BIDHICHAND INSISTED THAT THERE WAS NO HARM IN TRYING—



A SHORT WHILE LATER BIDHICHAND RETURNED.



\* BETWEEN GOINDWAL AND THE PRESENT TARN TARAN

SO THEY CHOSE A SHADY TREE AND SETTLED UNDER IT. JUST THEN HEMA, A POOR CORN-GRINDER, CAME THERE.



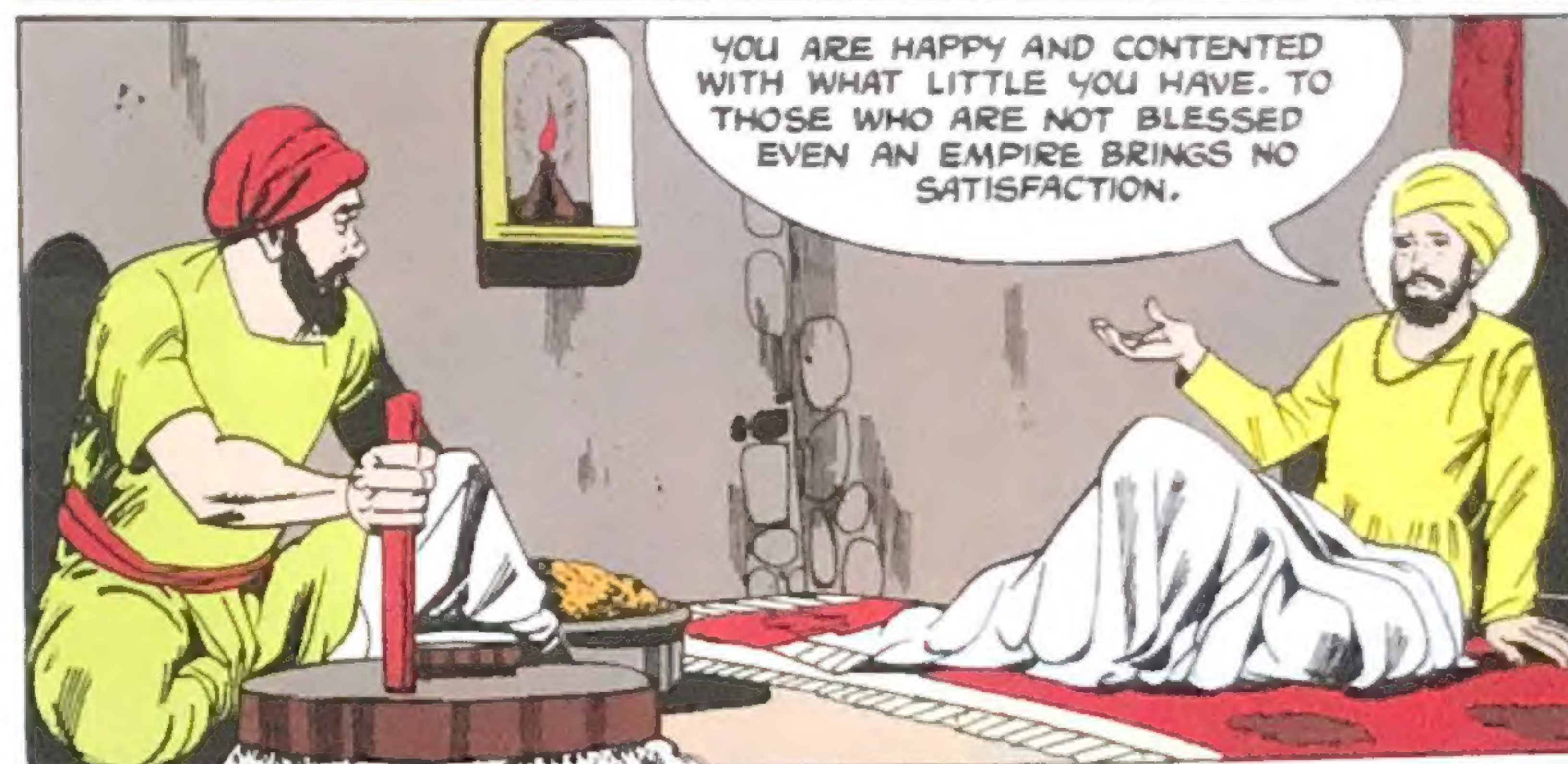
THE GURU WENT TO HEMA'S HUT AND STAYED THERE WITH HIS FOLLOWERS.



AFTER THE MEAL —



THE GURU RESTED AS HEMA GROUND THE CORN.





AFTER HIS LONG TOUR, GURU ARJAN RETURNED TO AMRITSAR MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF PRITHICHAND



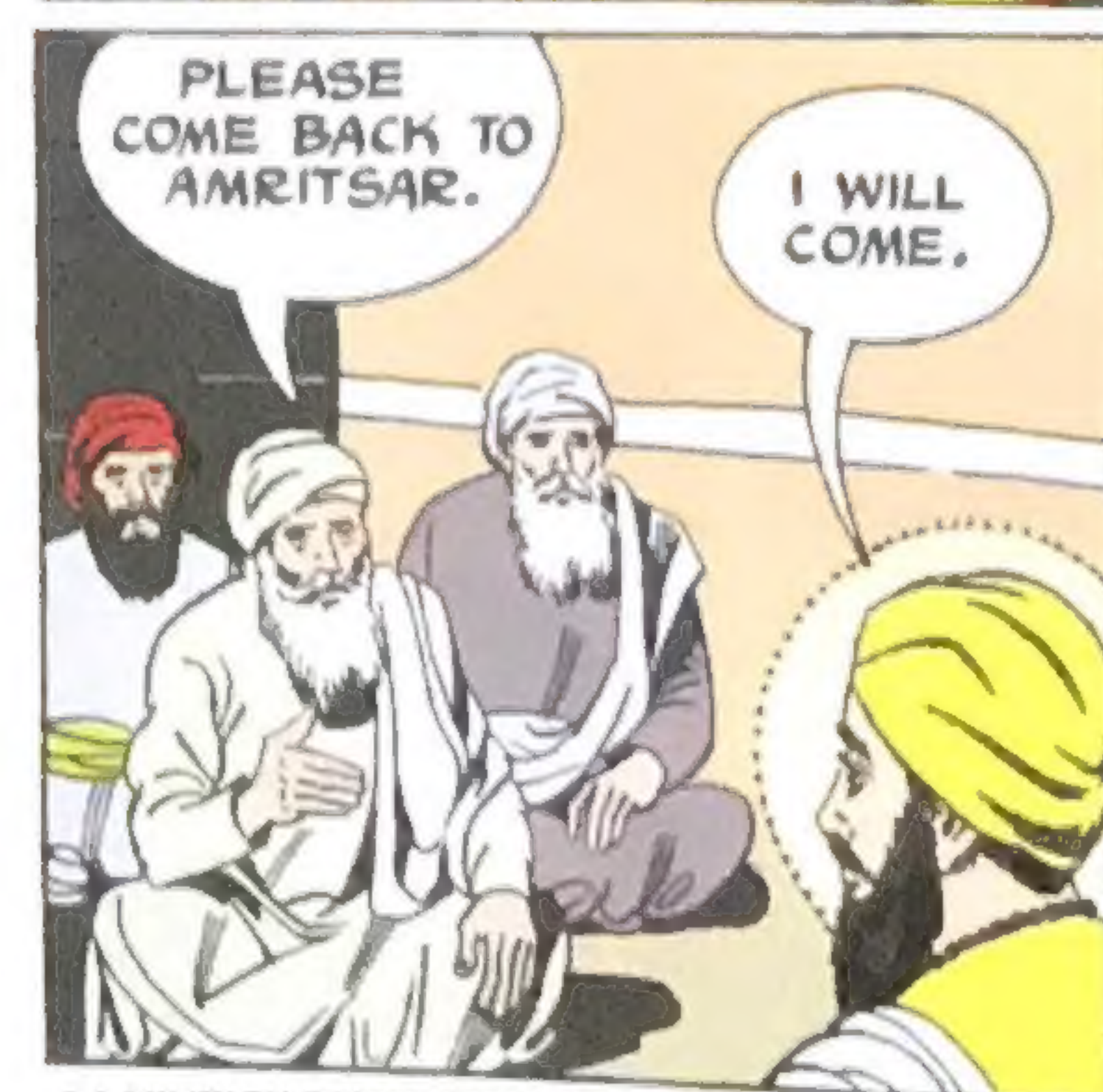
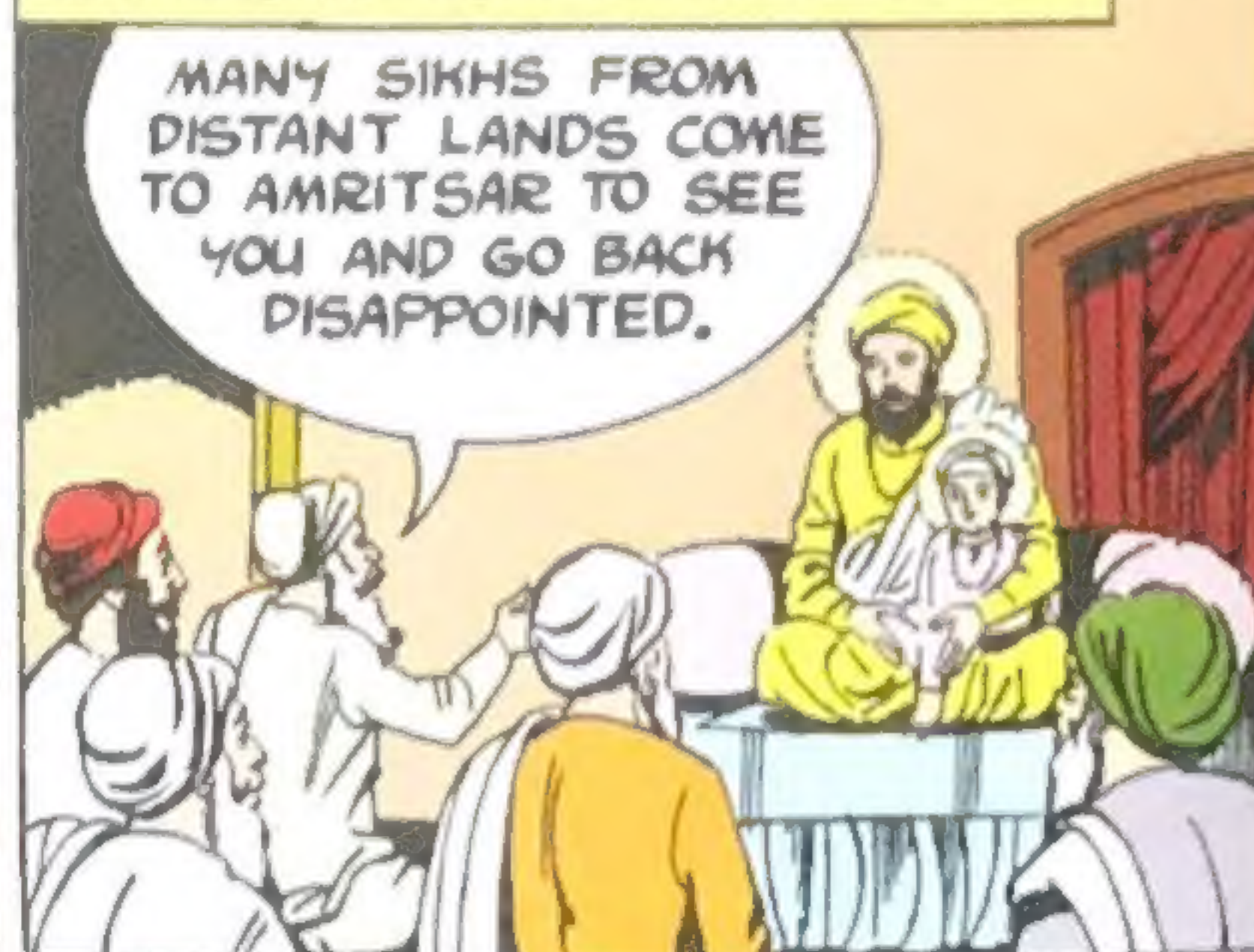
A FAITHFUL SIKH INFORMED THE GURU OF PRITHI'S EVIL PLAN.



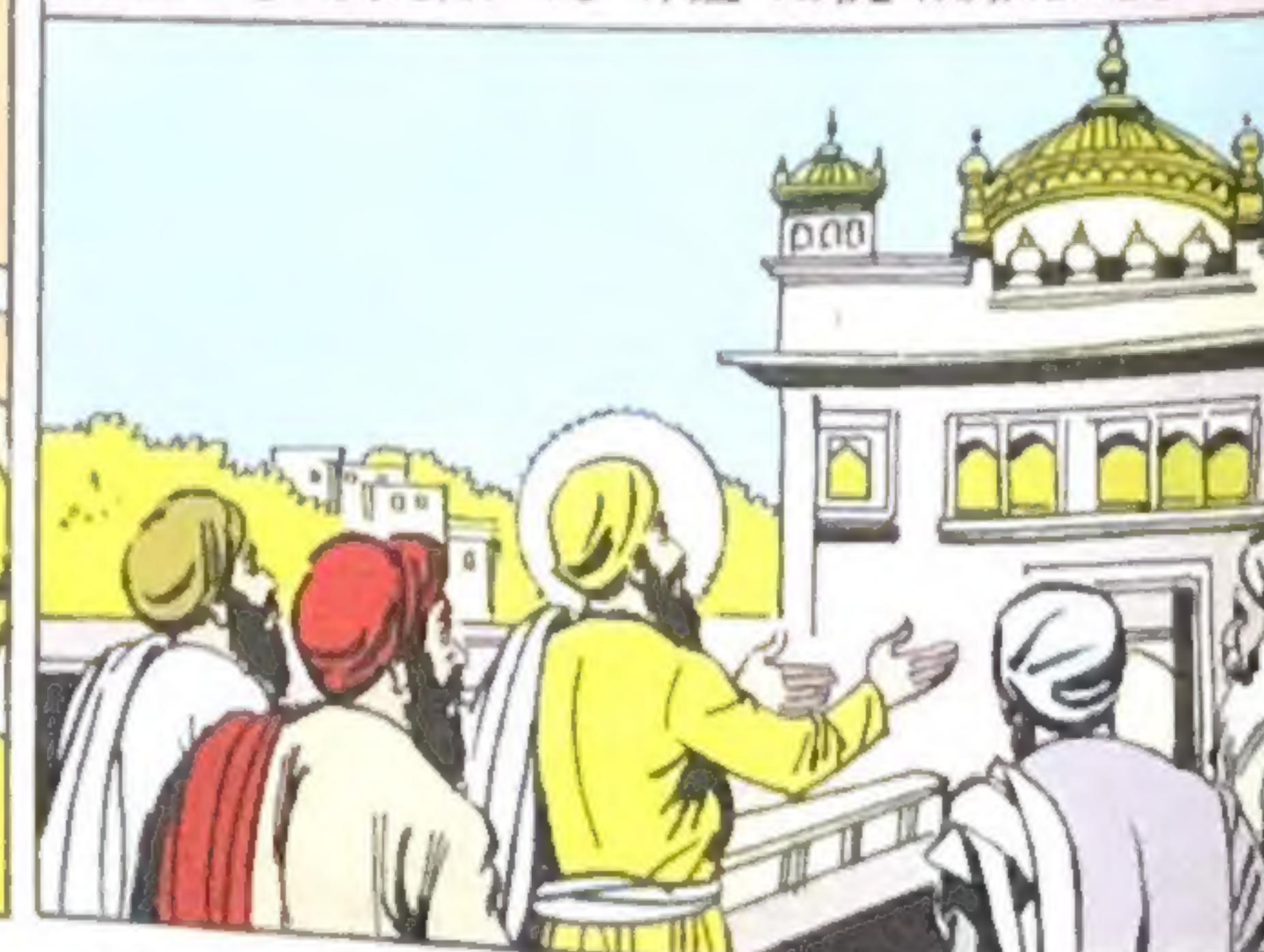
THUS GURU ARJAN LEFT AMRITSAR FOR THE SECOND TIME. HE TOOK SHELTER IN THE VILLAGE, WADALI, WHERE HIS WIFE WAS DELIVERED OF A SON WHO WOULD LATER SUCCEED HIM AS GURU HARGOBIND.



WHEN HARGOBIND WAS TWO YEARS OLD A DEPUTATION OF THE SIKHS OF AMRITSAR VISITED WADALI.

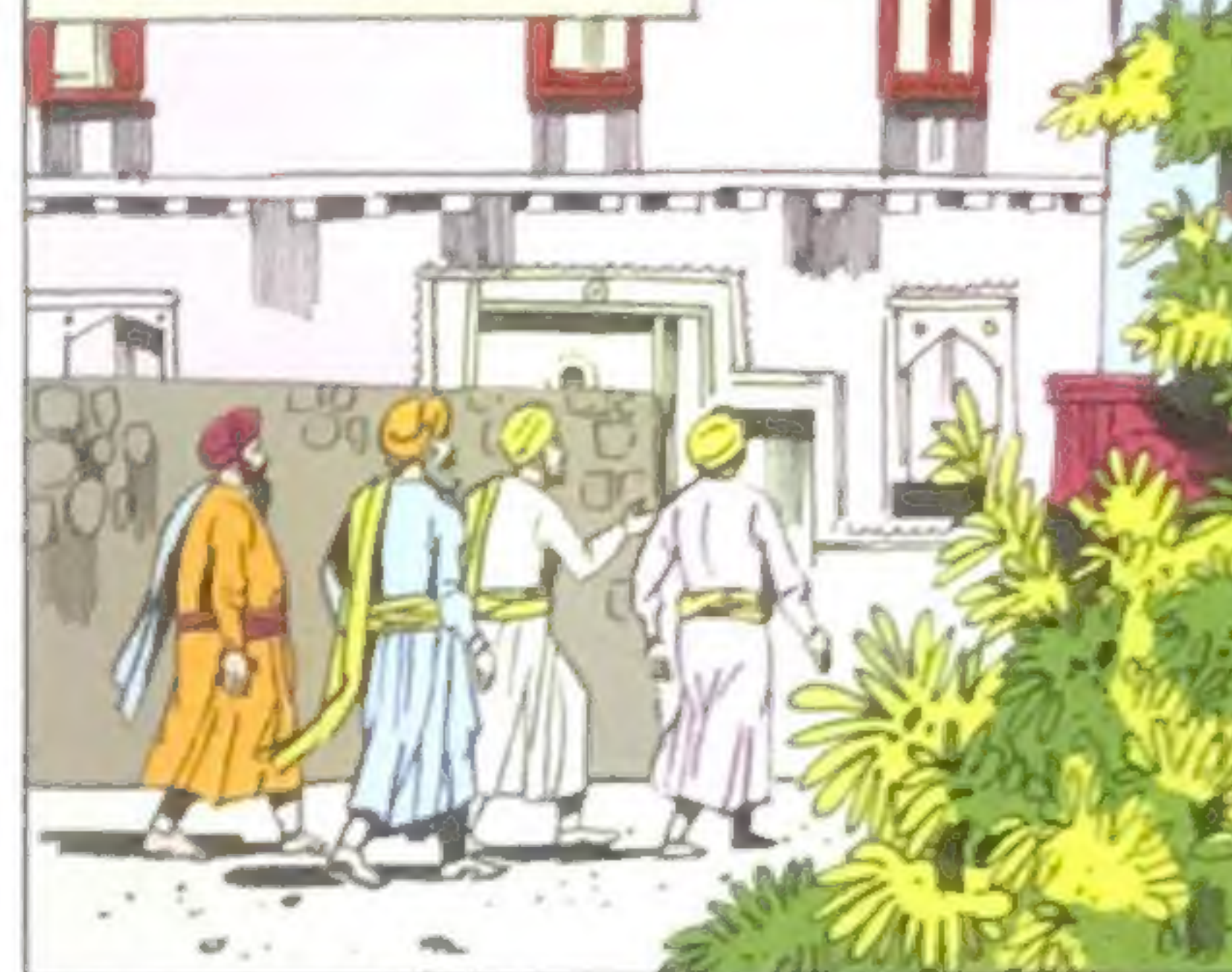


ON HIS RETURN TO AMRITSAR THE GURU WENT STRAIGHT TO THE HAR MANDIR.

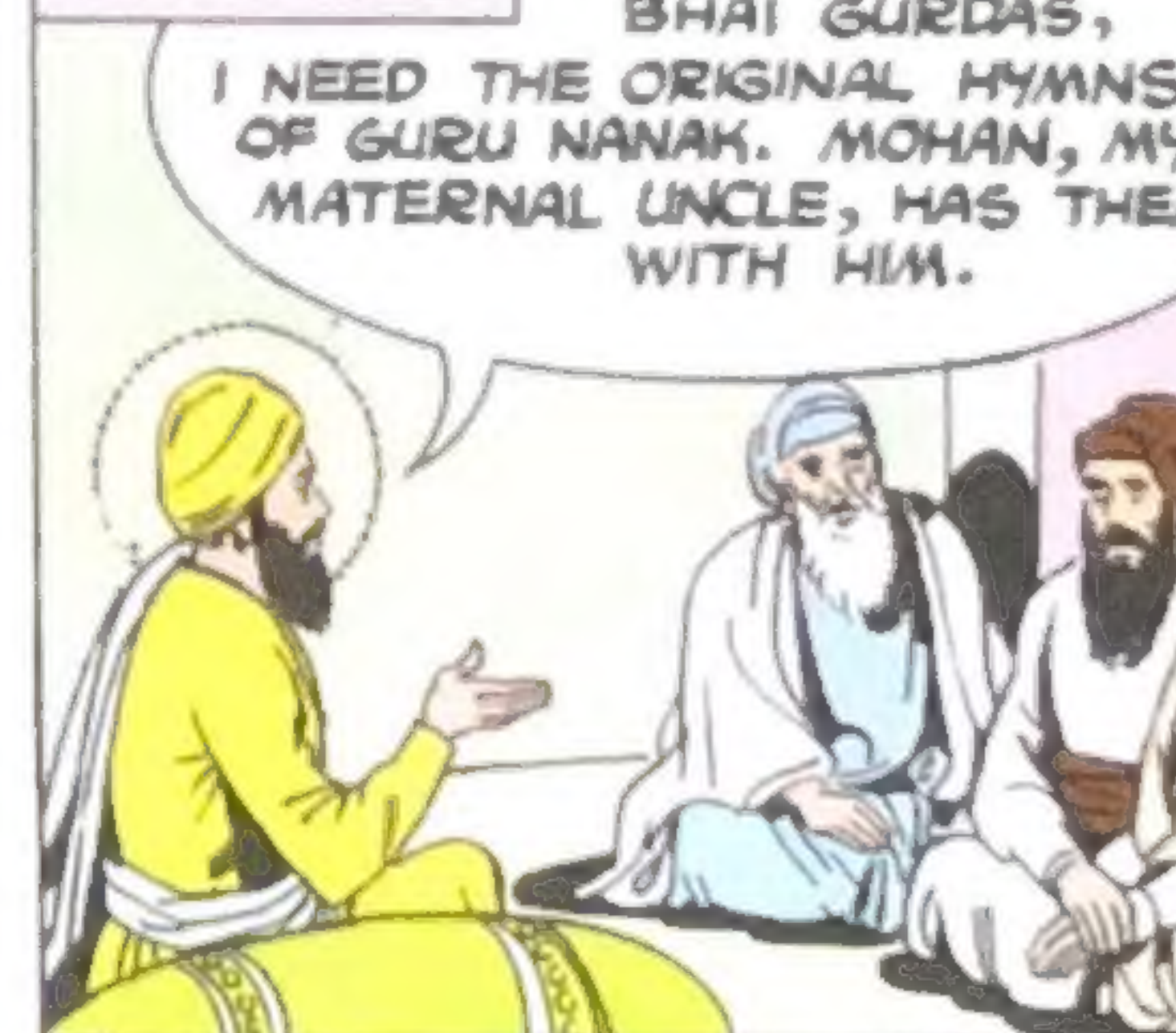


\* A MILITARY COMMANDER IN THE MUGHAL COURT

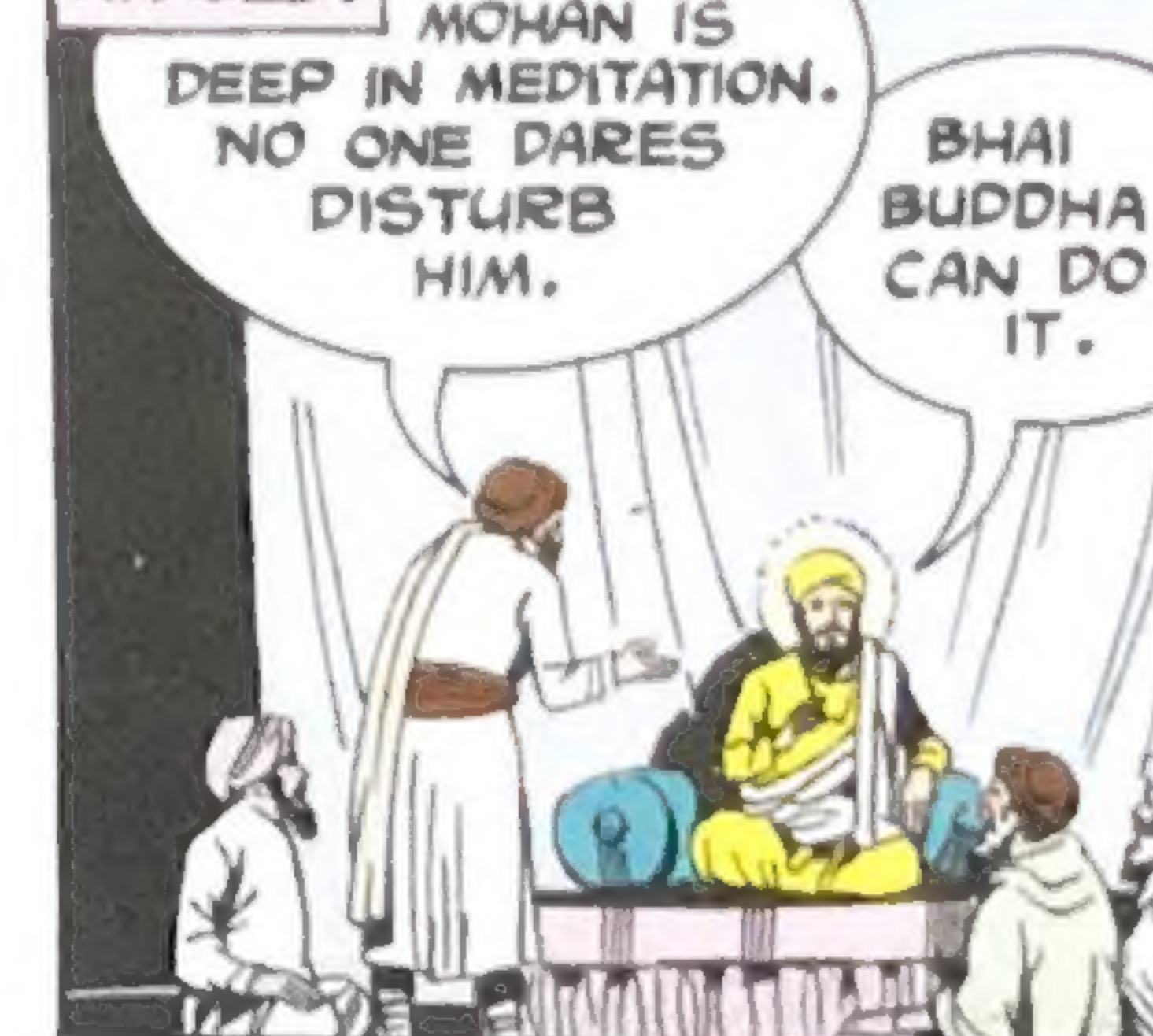
ALL THE SIKHS OF AMRITSAR, EXCEPT PRITHICHAND, WERE HAPPY TO SEE THEIR GURU BACK.



MEANWHILE GURU ARJAN DECIDED TO COMPILE THE HYMNS OF ALL THE GURUS.



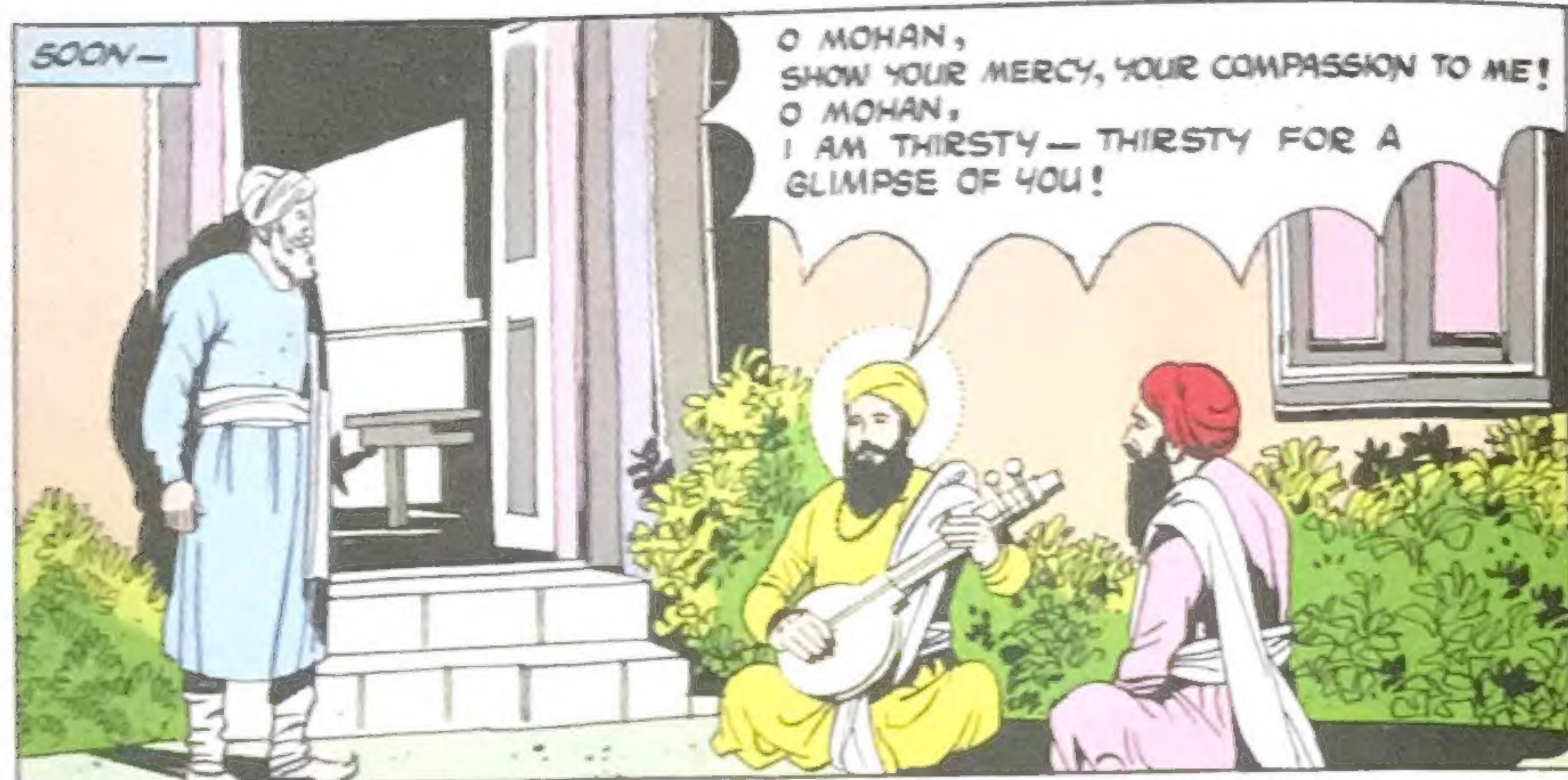
BHAI GURDAS WENT TO MOHAN'S HOUSE BUT RETURNED EMPTY-HANDED.



WHEN BHAI BUDDHA TOO RETURNED WITHOUT THE HYMNS, GURU ARJAN HIMSELF WENT TO MOHAN'S HOUSE.



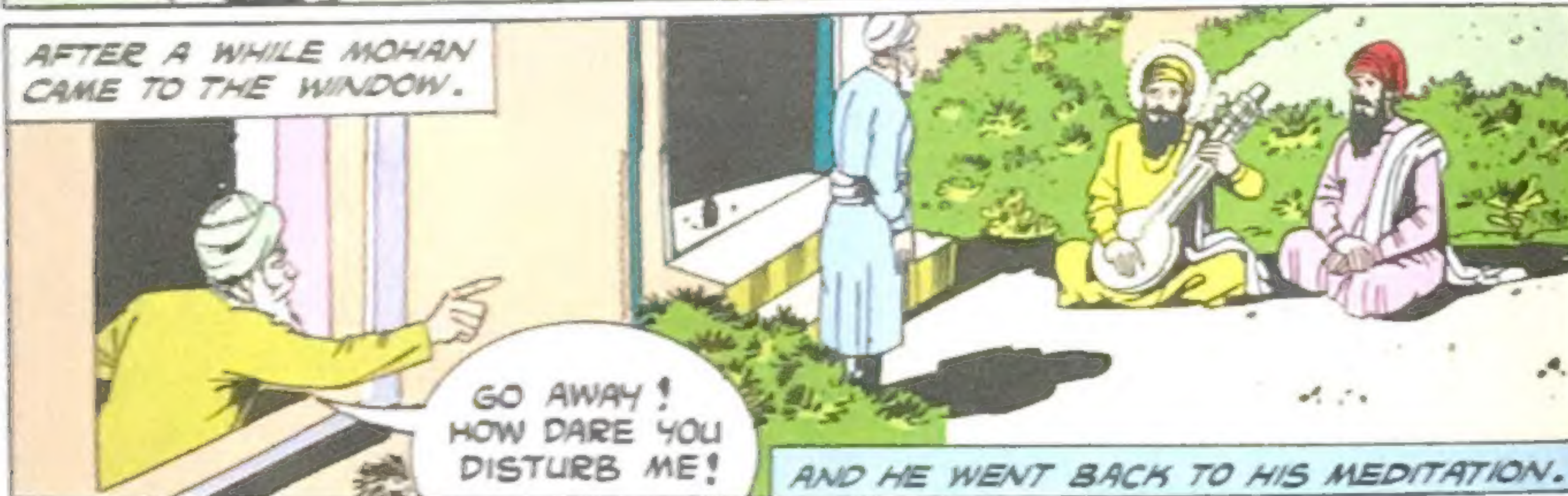




SOON—

O MOHAN,  
SHOW YOUR MERCY, YOUR COMPASSION TO ME!  
O MOHAN,  
I AM THIRSTY— THIRSTY FOR A  
GLIMPSE OF YOU!

AFTER A WHILE MOHAN  
CAME TO THE WINDOW.



GO AWAY!  
HOW DARE YOU  
DISTURB ME!

AND HE WENT BACK TO HIS MEDITATION.

BUT GURU ARJAN WAS NOT PUT  
OFF, HE CONTINUED HIS EFFORT.



O MOHAN, MAY  
YOUR KINGDOM  
EVER ABIDE!

AT LAST MOHAN RELENTED AND CALLED THE  
GURU IN.



WHAT DO YOU  
WANT, MY  
CHILD?

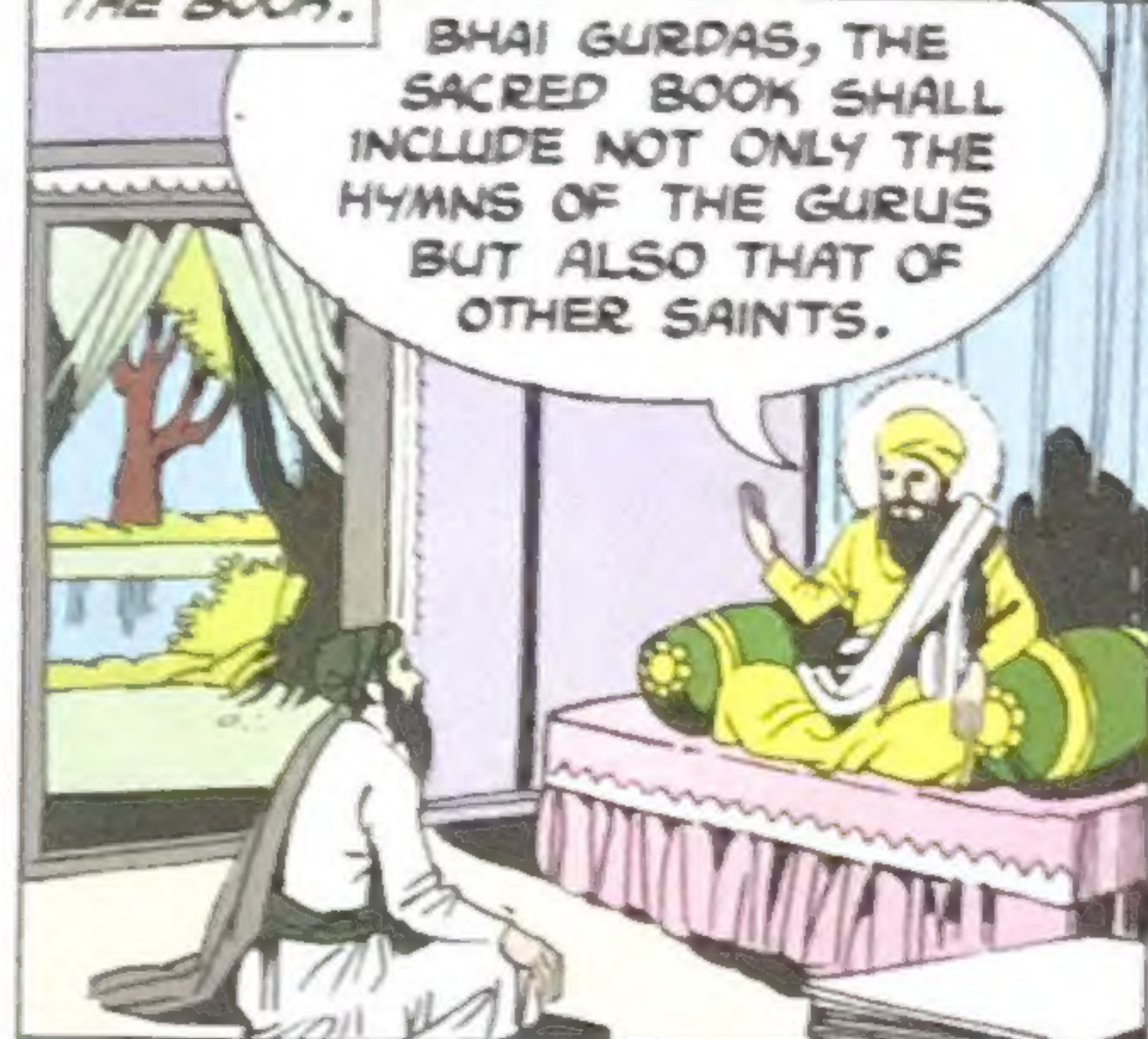
I WANT  
NANAK'S HYMNS.  
COULD YOU  
GIVE ME THE  
ORIGINALS YOU  
HAVE?



YOU SHALL HAVE THEM.  
FOR NOW I'M SURE  
THEY WILL BE IN THE  
RIGHT HANDS. MAY  
GOD BLESS  
YOU.

WE ARE  
GRATEFUL TO  
YOU, O NOBLE  
ONE.

THE GURU HAD A TANK BUILT AT  
A SECLUDED SPOT CLOSE TO WHICH  
HE CAMPED AND BEGAN WORK ON  
THE BOOK.

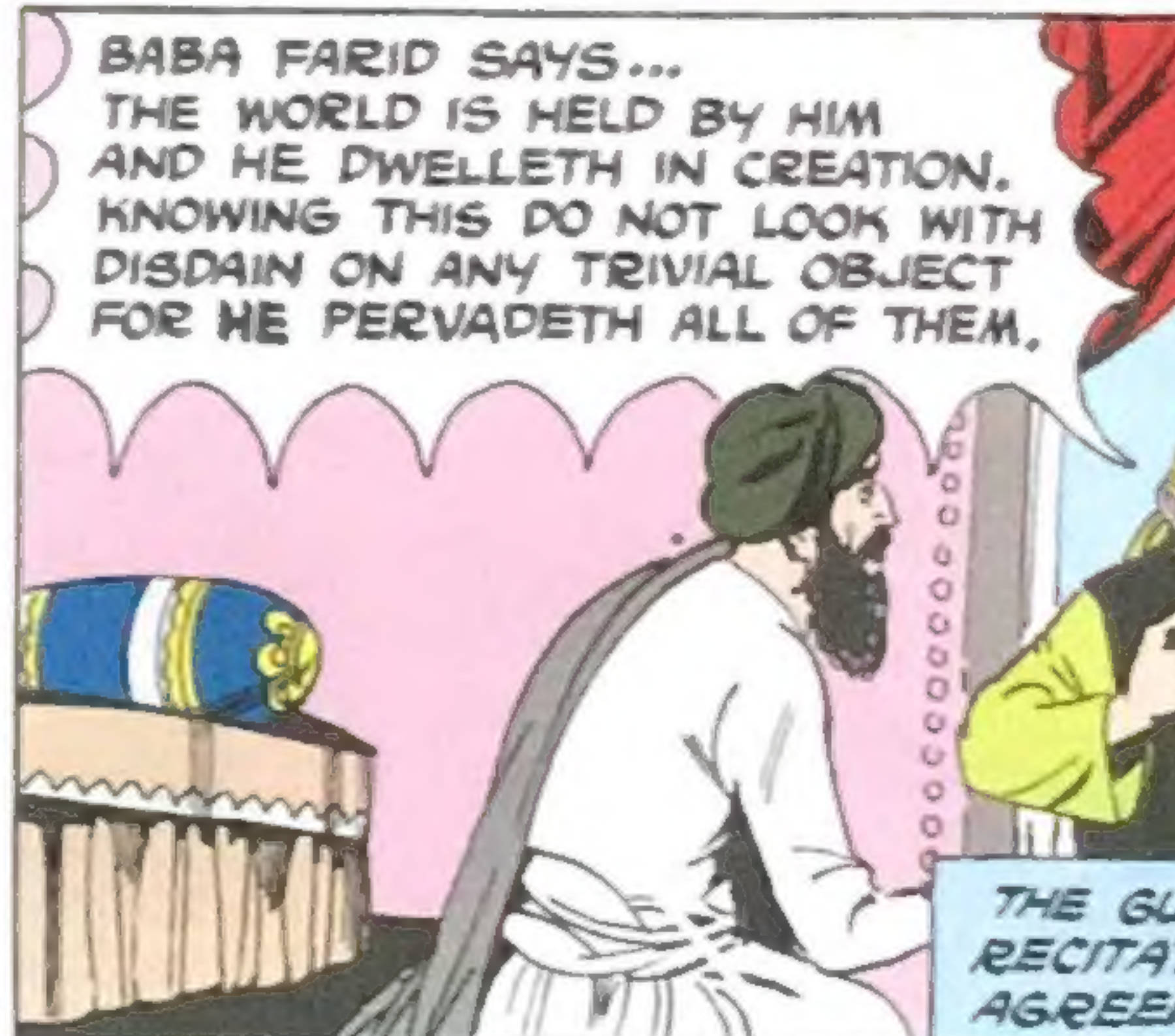


BHAI GURDAS, THE  
SACRED BOOK SHALL  
INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE  
HYMNS OF THE GURUS  
BUT ALSO THAT OF  
OTHER SAINTS.

AT THE INVITATION OF THE GURU, FOLLOWERS  
OF DIFFERENT SECTS, BOTH HINDU AND  
MUSLIM, CAME TO RAMSAR AND RECITED  
THE HYMNS OF THEIR TEACHERS.



KABIR SAYS...  
TROUBLE NOT THE WEAK WHOSE  
SIGHS ARE AS POWERFUL AS THE  
SIGH OF THE BELLOWS WITH  
THE HELP OF WHICH IRON IS  
MELTED.



BABA FARID SAYS...  
THE WORLD IS HELD BY HIM  
AND HE DWELLETH IN CREATION.  
KNOWING THIS DO NOT LOOK WITH  
DISDAIN ON ANY TRIVIAL OBJECT  
FOR HE PERVADETH ALL OF THEM.

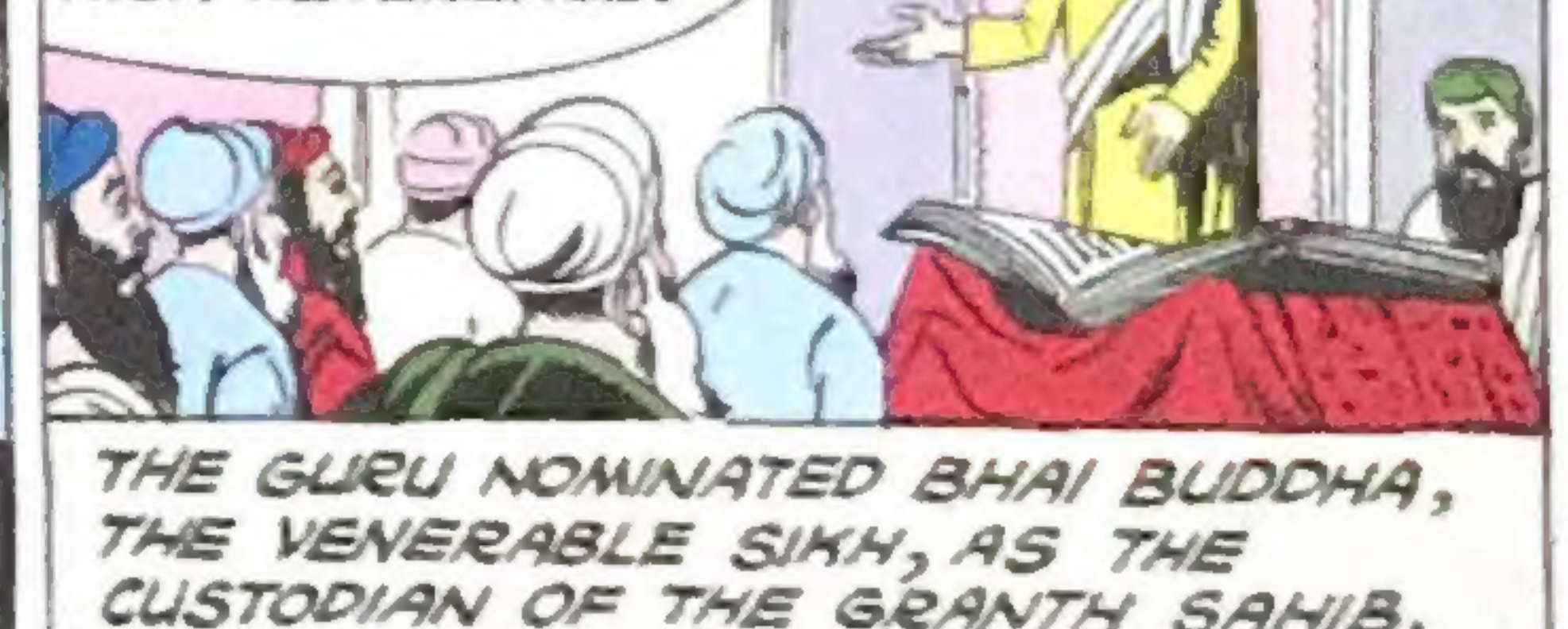
THE GURU LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO THE  
RECITATIONS AND MADE A NOTE OF THOSE WHICH  
AGREED WITH THE TEACHINGS OF THE GURUS.

AFTER THE SELECTIONS WERE MADE  
THE GURU DICTATED THE HYMNS TO  
BHAI GURDAS.



THE GURU CALLED THE COMPILATION  
GRANTH SAHIB AND INSTALLED IT AT  
THE HAR MANDIR.

THE GRANTH SAHIB  
IS THE EMBODIMENT  
OF THE GURU. IT  
SHOULD BE HELD IN  
HIGH REVERENCE.



THE GURU NOMINATED BHAI BUDDHA,  
THE VENERABLE SIKH, AS THE  
CUSTODIAN OF THE GRANTH SAHIB.



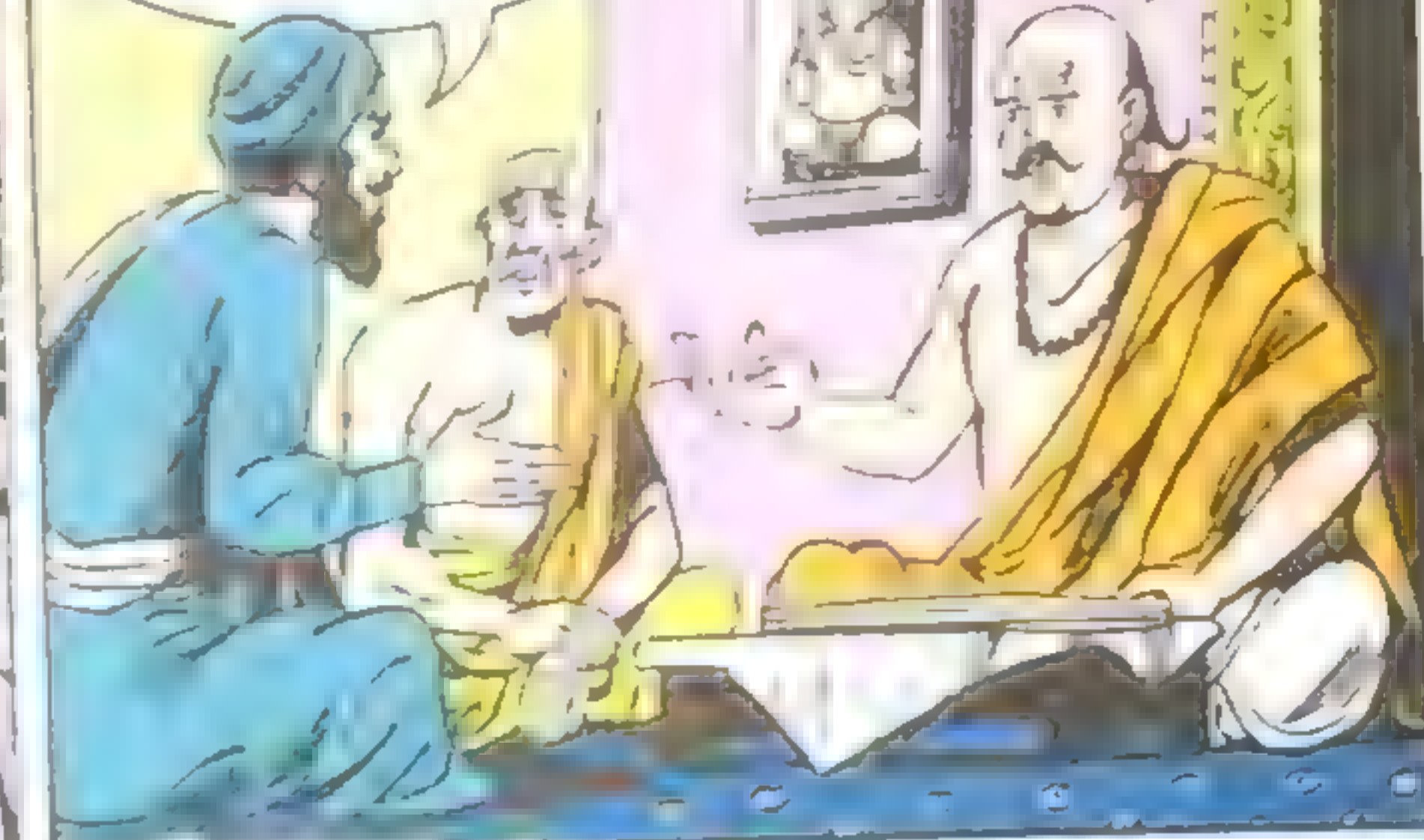
THE GRANTH SAHIB GAVE PRITHICHAND THE OPPORTUNITY HE WAS WAITING FOR.

MAULVI SAHIB, THAT WRETCH WHOM I'M ASHAMED TO OWN AS A BROTHER HAS MADE FUN OF MUSLIM SAINTS IN HIS GRANTH SAHIB.

HE WILL PAY FOR THIS.

PANDITJI, HAVE YOU SEEN ARJAN'S HOLY BOOK? I WISH HE HAD TREATED THE HINDU SAINTS WITH THE RESPECT THEY DESERVE.

WHAT! HAS HE SPOKEN ILL OF OUR SAINTS?



WE WILL COMPLAIN TO THE EMPEROR.

A FEW DAYS LATER, GURU ARJAN RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM THE MUGHAL EMPEROR WHO WAS CAMPING AT GURUDASPUR.

THE EMPEROR HAS RECEIVED COMPLAINTS AGAINST YOUR BOOK. HE WANTS TO INSPECT IT.

BY ALL MEANS.



BHAI GURDAS, PLEASE TAKE IT TO THE EMPEROR.

AT AKBAR'S CAMP WHEN BHAI GURDAS READ OUT THE FIRST VERSE FROM THE SACRED BOOK—

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING OBJECTIONABLE IN THAT.



THEN CHANDU SHAH, A MINISTER IN AKBAR'S COURT WHO HARBOURED A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST THE GURU, STOOD UP.

JAHANPANAH, ARJAN'S MEN ARE CUNNING AND NOT TO BE TRUSTED. THEY HAVE READ OUT A VERSE WHICH SUITS THEM.



PLEASE TURN THE PAGES...

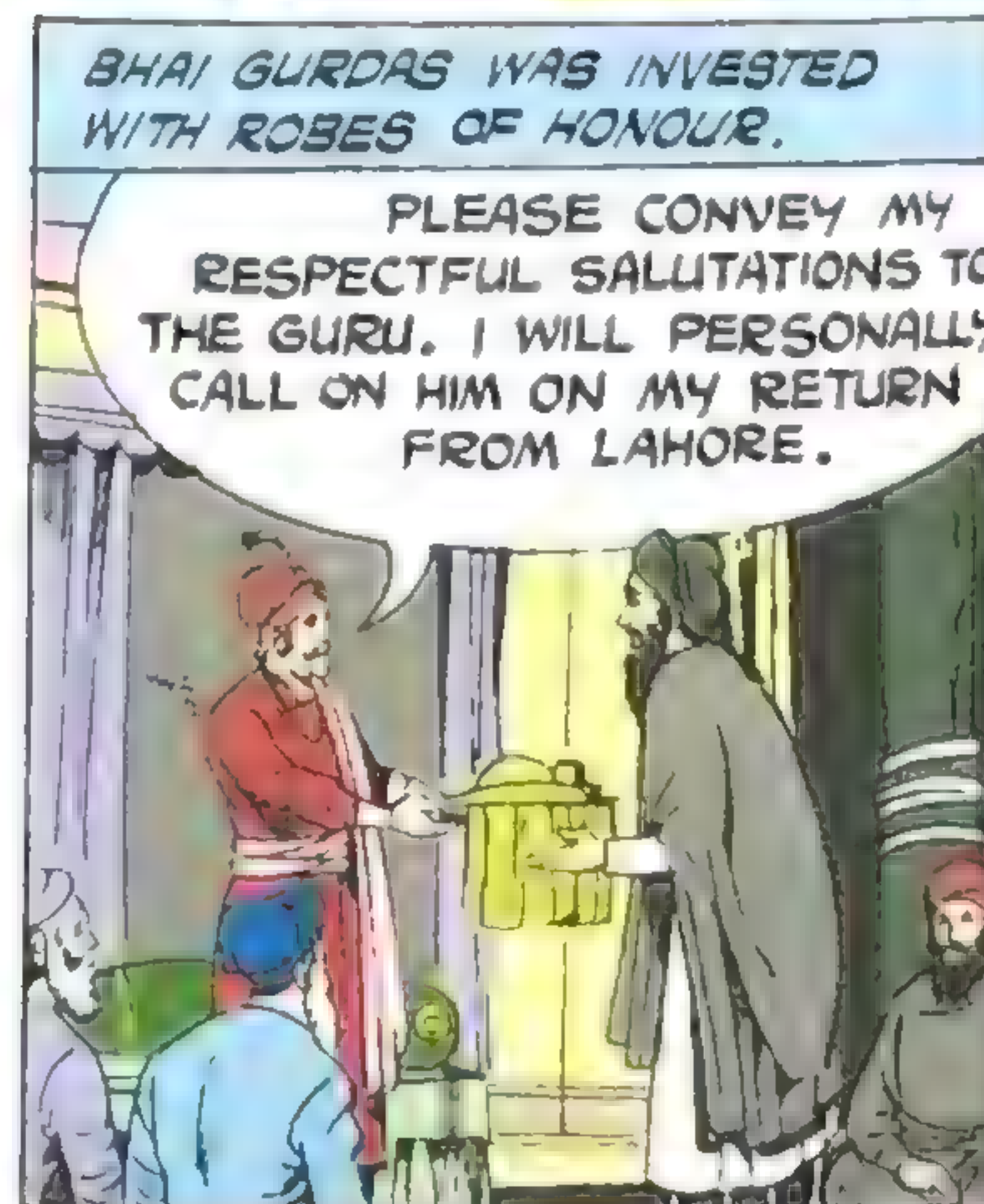
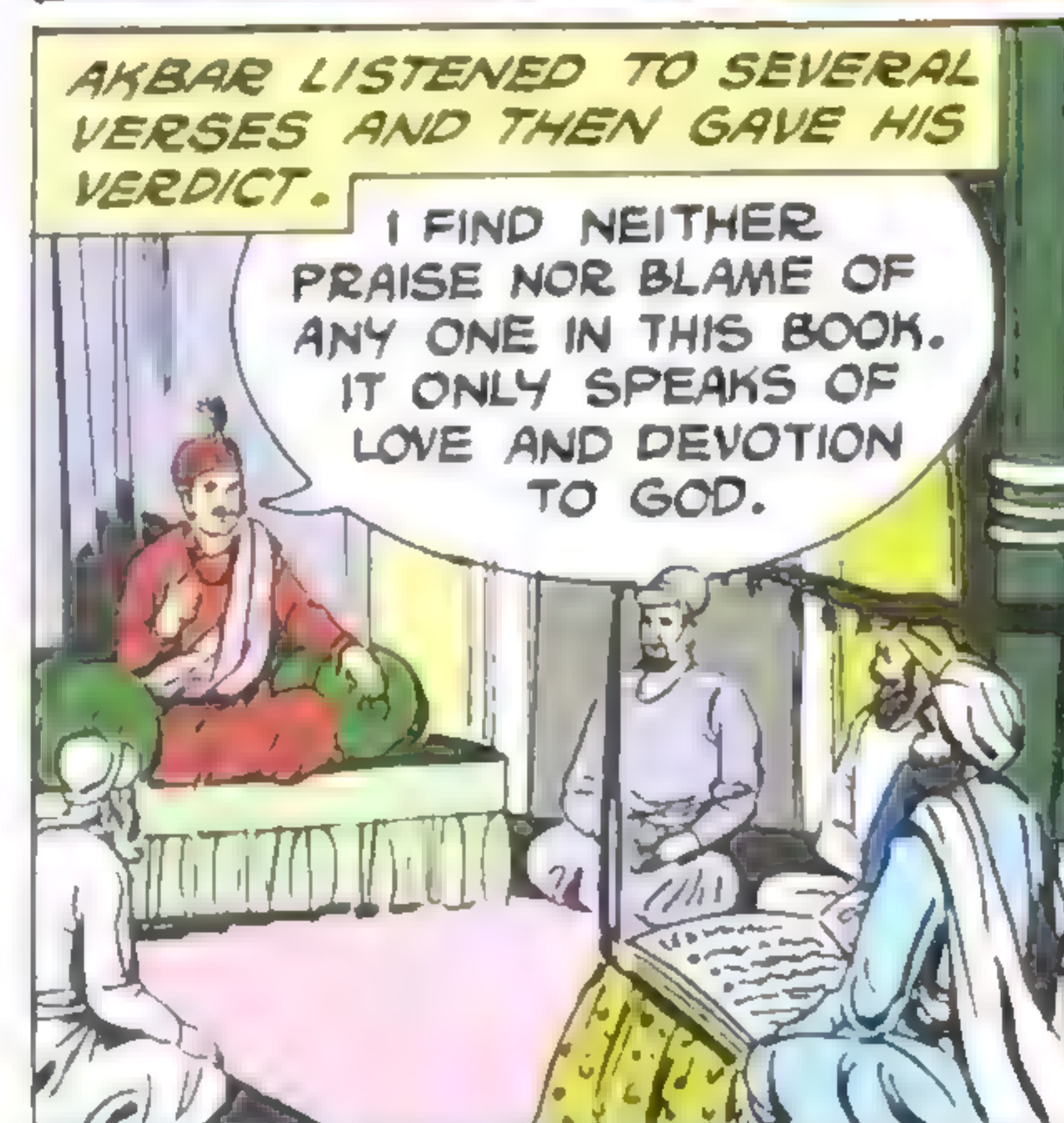
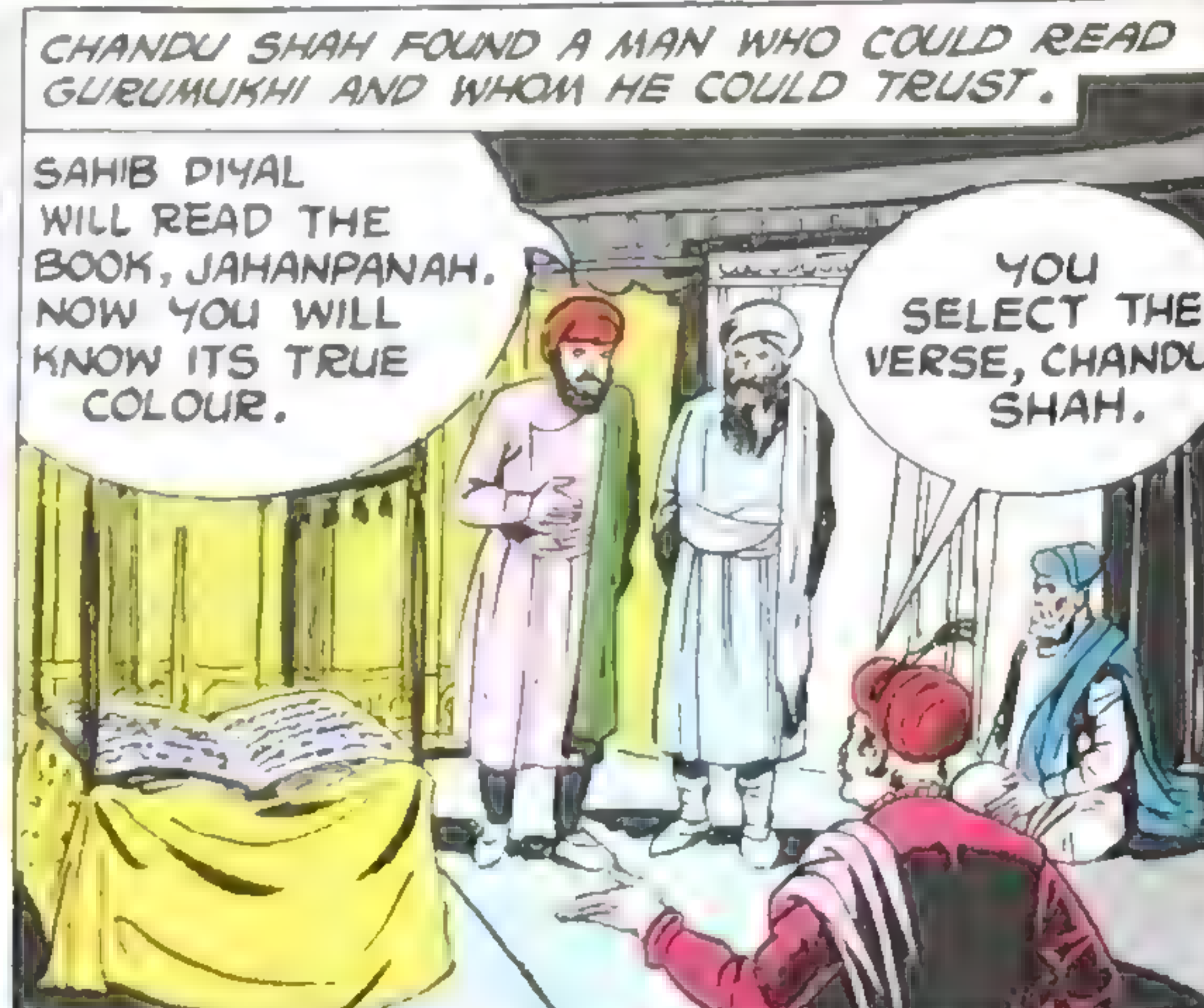
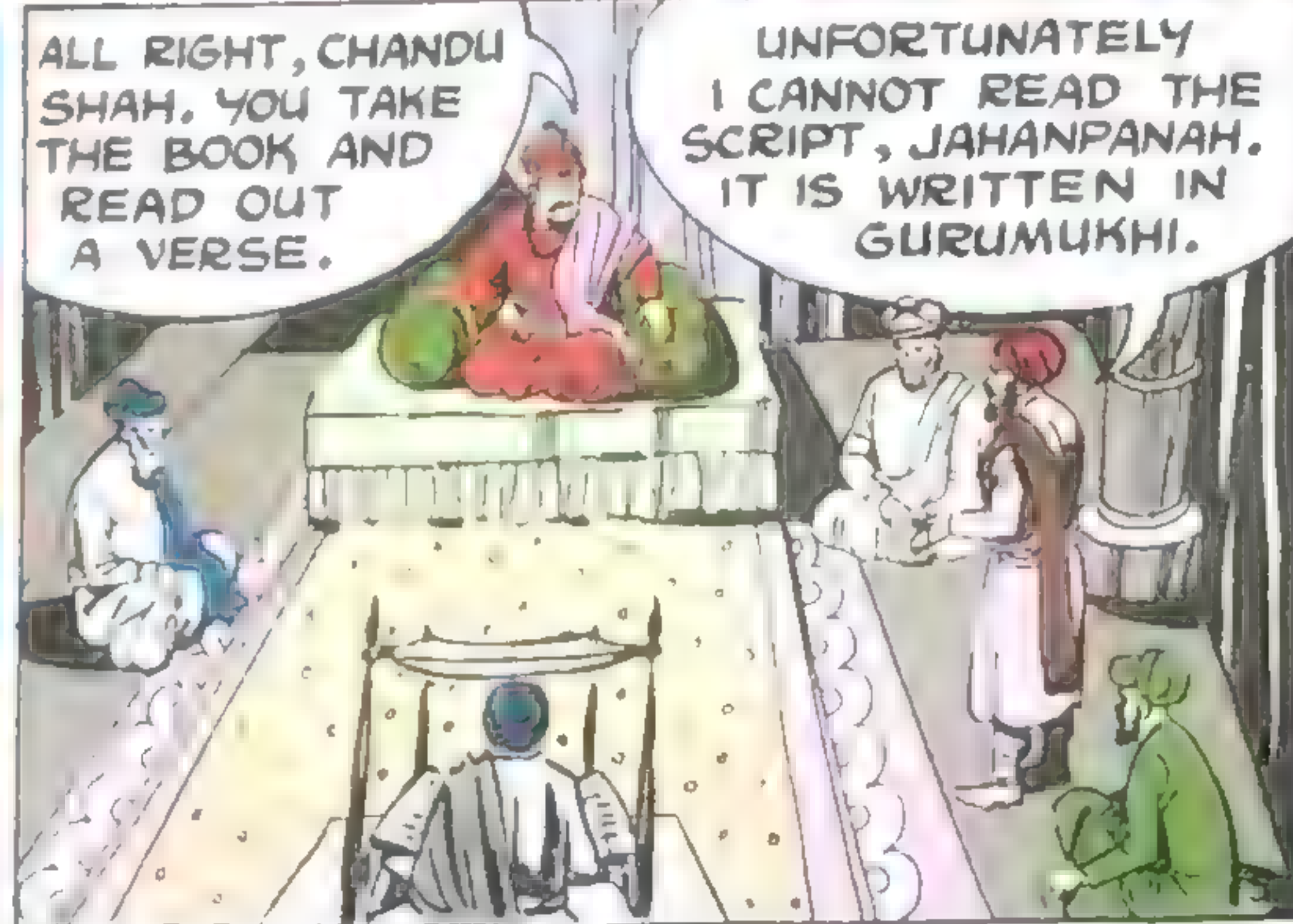


...TILL I ASK YOU TO STOP.

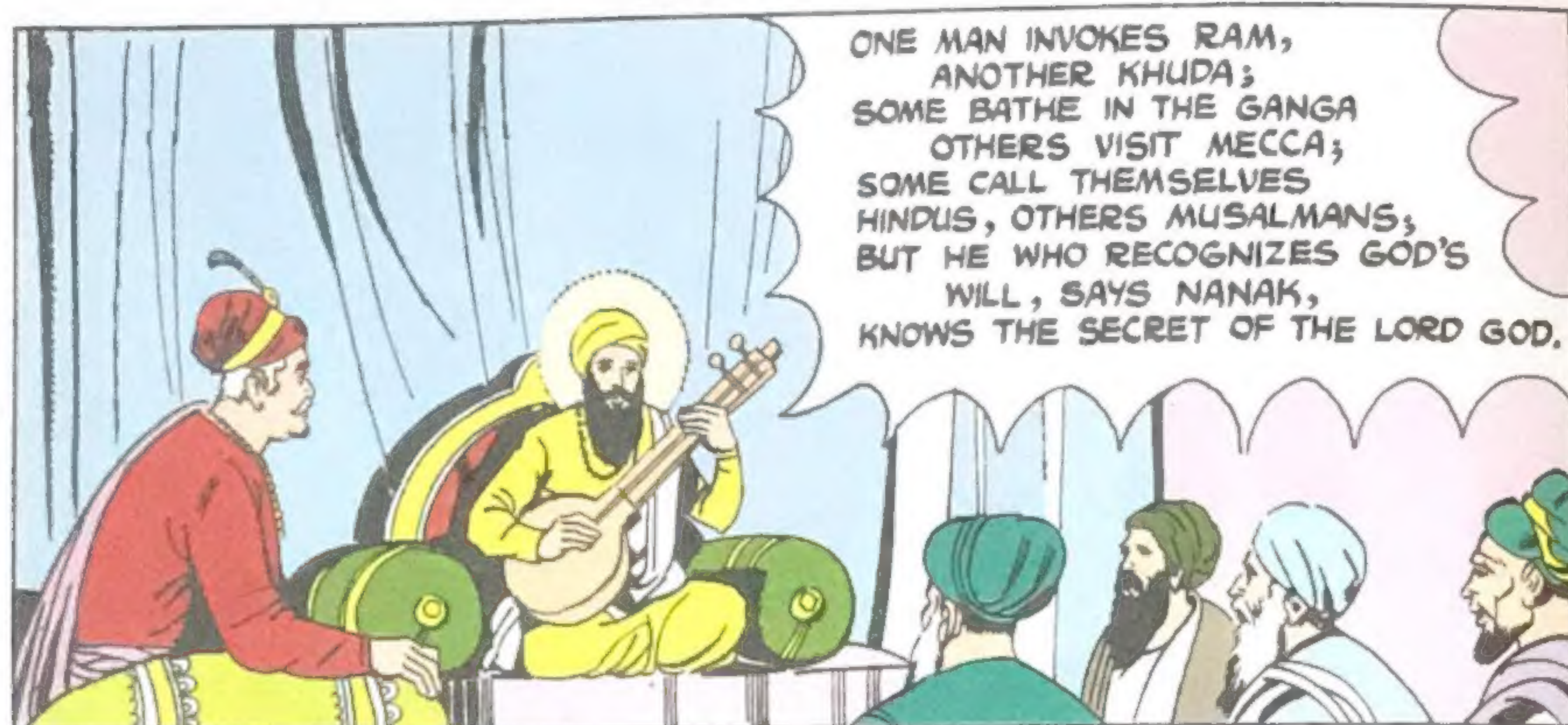


STOP! READ A VERSE FROM THAT PAGE.









AS A RESULT OF AKBAR'S VISIT, THE  
GURU'S FAME ONLY INCREASED.

OUR BRICKBATS TURN  
INTO BOUQUETS WHEN  
THEY REACH ARJAN. WHAT  
SHOULD WE DO NEXT,  
PRITHICHAND?

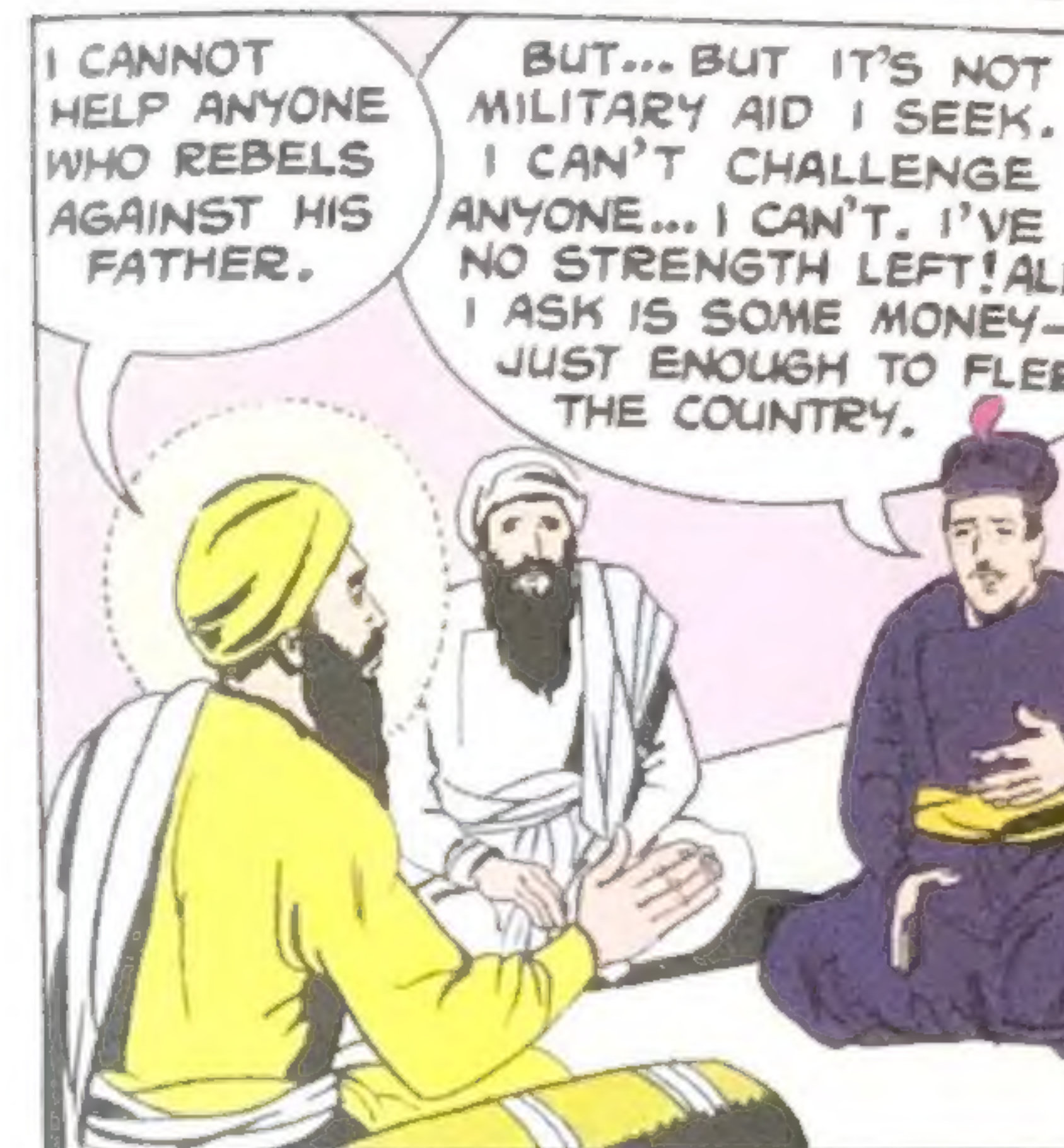
JUST LIE  
LOW FOR  
A WHILE.

A FEW MONTHS LATER, EMPEROR AKBAR DIED.  
AND WHEN HIS SON JAHANGIR SUCCEEDED  
HIM, PRITHICHAND AND CHANDU SHAH FOUND  
THEIR OPPORTUNITY.

WE CAN WORK ON JAHANGIR. I HEARD  
HE'LL SOON BE ARRIVING HERE IN  
PURSUIT OF HIS REBELLIOUS  
SON, KHUSRO.

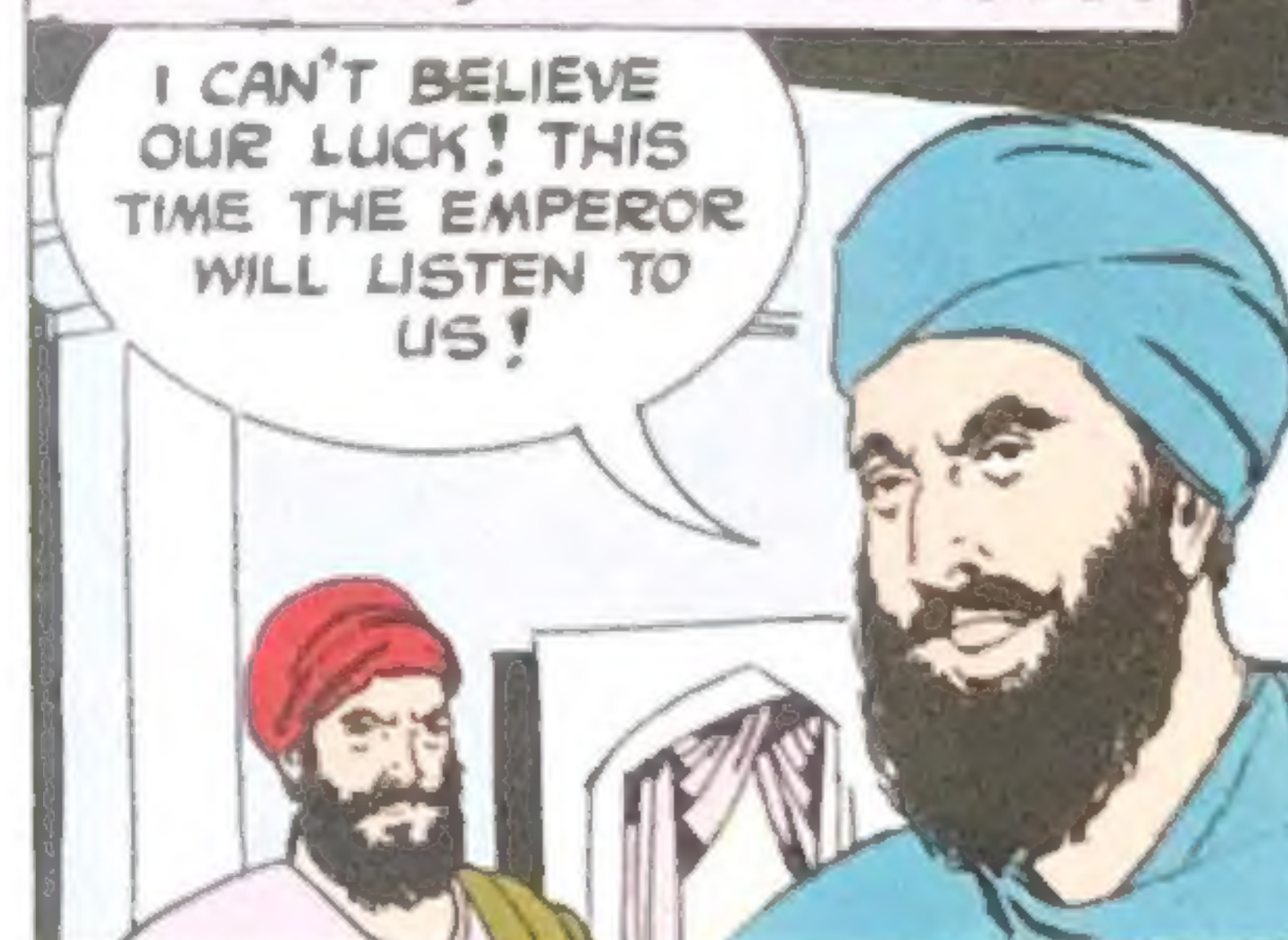
SOMETIME LATER, WHEN THE UNFORTUNATE PRINCE KHUSRO  
ARRIVED IN THE PUNJAB, HE SOUGHT HELP FROM THE ONLY  
PERSON WHO, HE KNEW, WOULD HELP HIM.

GURU,  
PLEASE HELP  
ME! I HAVE  
NO ONE TO  
TURN TO!



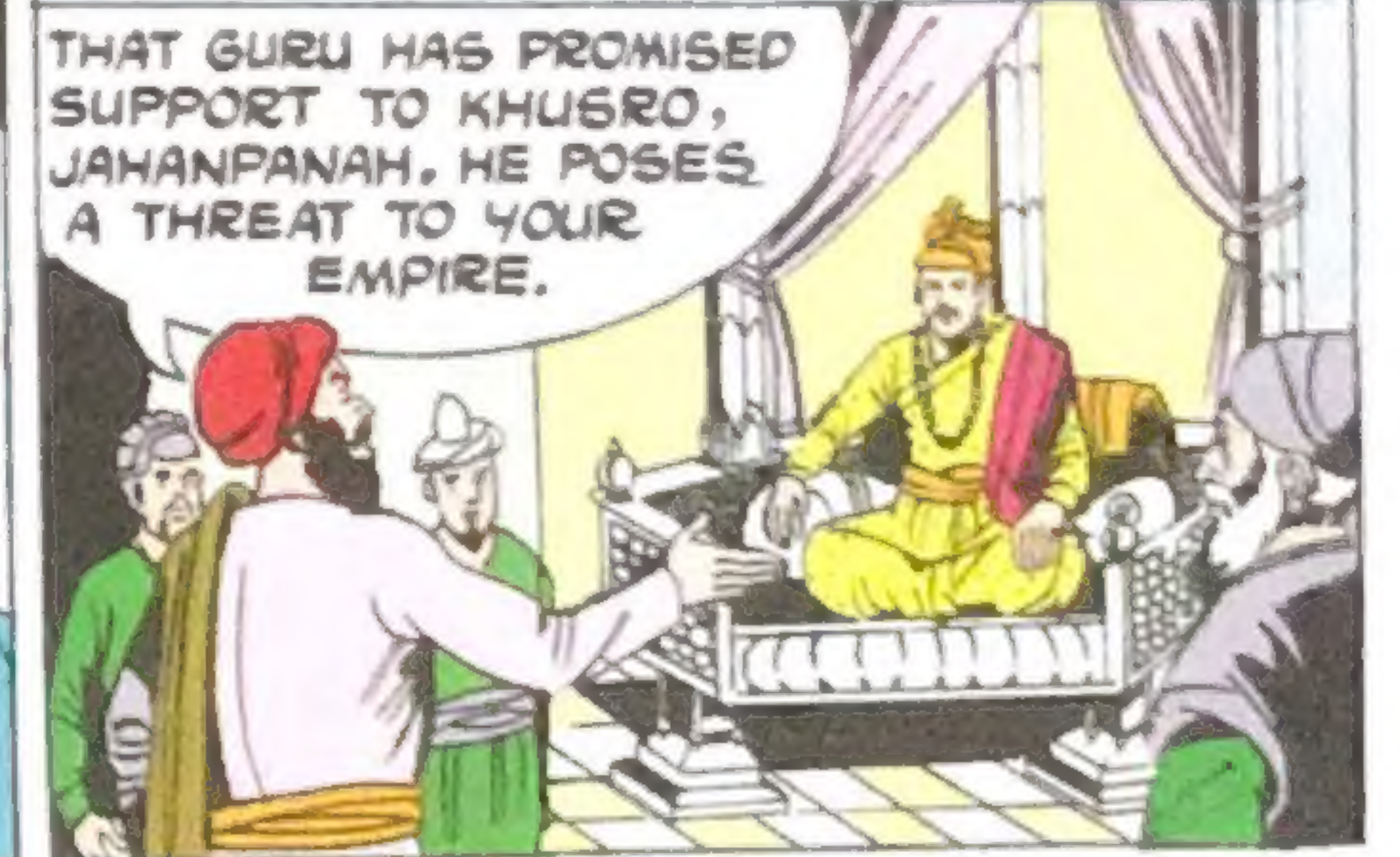
GURU ARJAN FINALLY AGREED TO  
HELP HIM. WHEN THIS NEWS REACHED  
PRITHICHAND, HE WAS OVERJOYED.

I CAN'T BELIEVE  
OUR LUCK! THIS  
TIME THE EMPEROR  
WILL LISTEN TO  
US!



PRITHI'S ALLY, CHANDU SHAH, TOOK THE  
FIRST OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO POISON  
JAHANGIR'S MIND AGAINST THE GURU.

THAT GURU HAS PROMISED  
SUPPORT TO KHUSRO,  
JAHANPANAH. HE POSES  
A THREAT TO YOUR  
EMPIRE.



THE PANDITS AND THE MAULVIS REVIVED THE  
OLD CHARGE AGAINST GURU ARJAN.

HE MAKES FUN OF  
OUR PRAYERS AND  
FASTINGS.

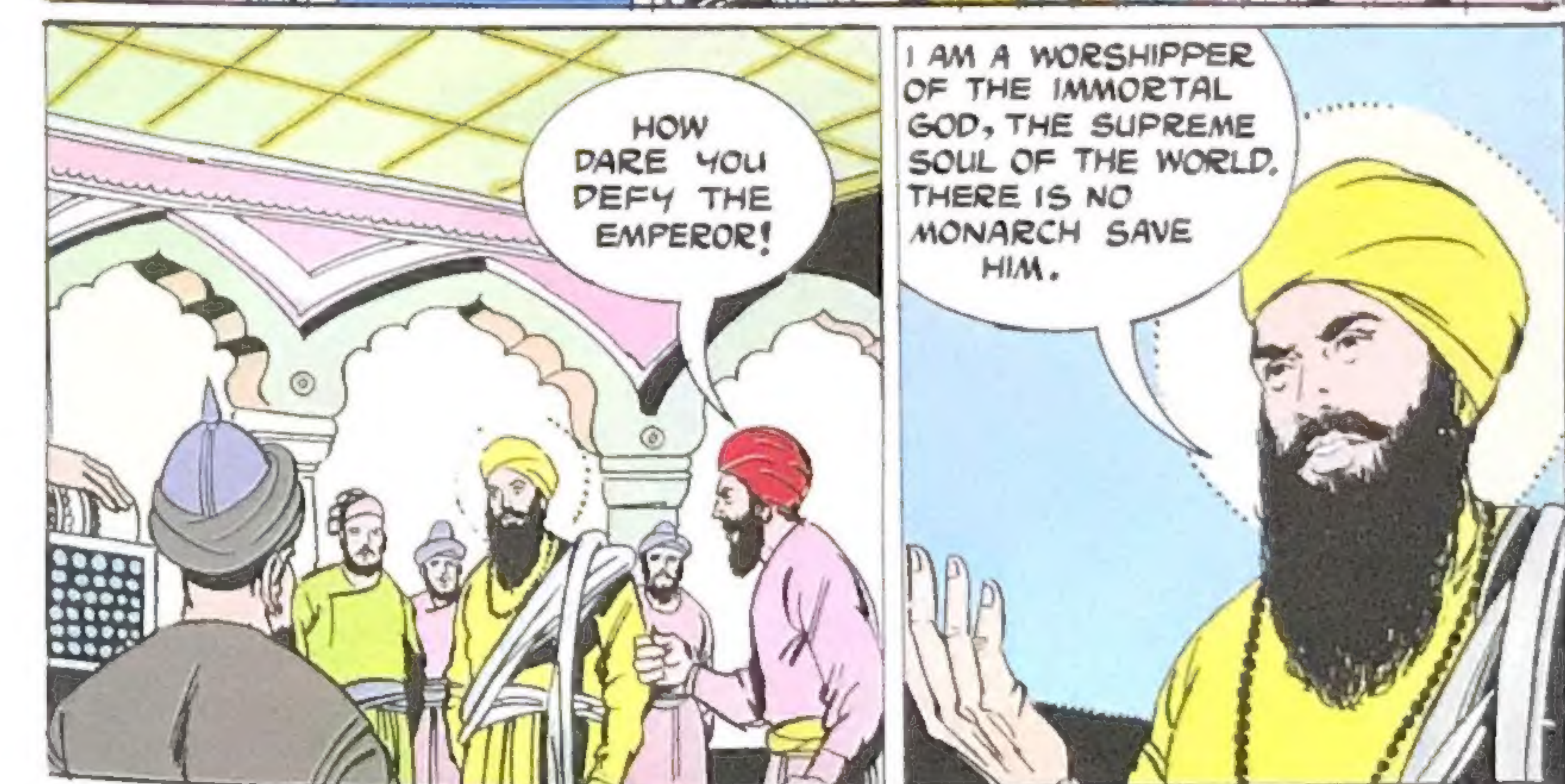
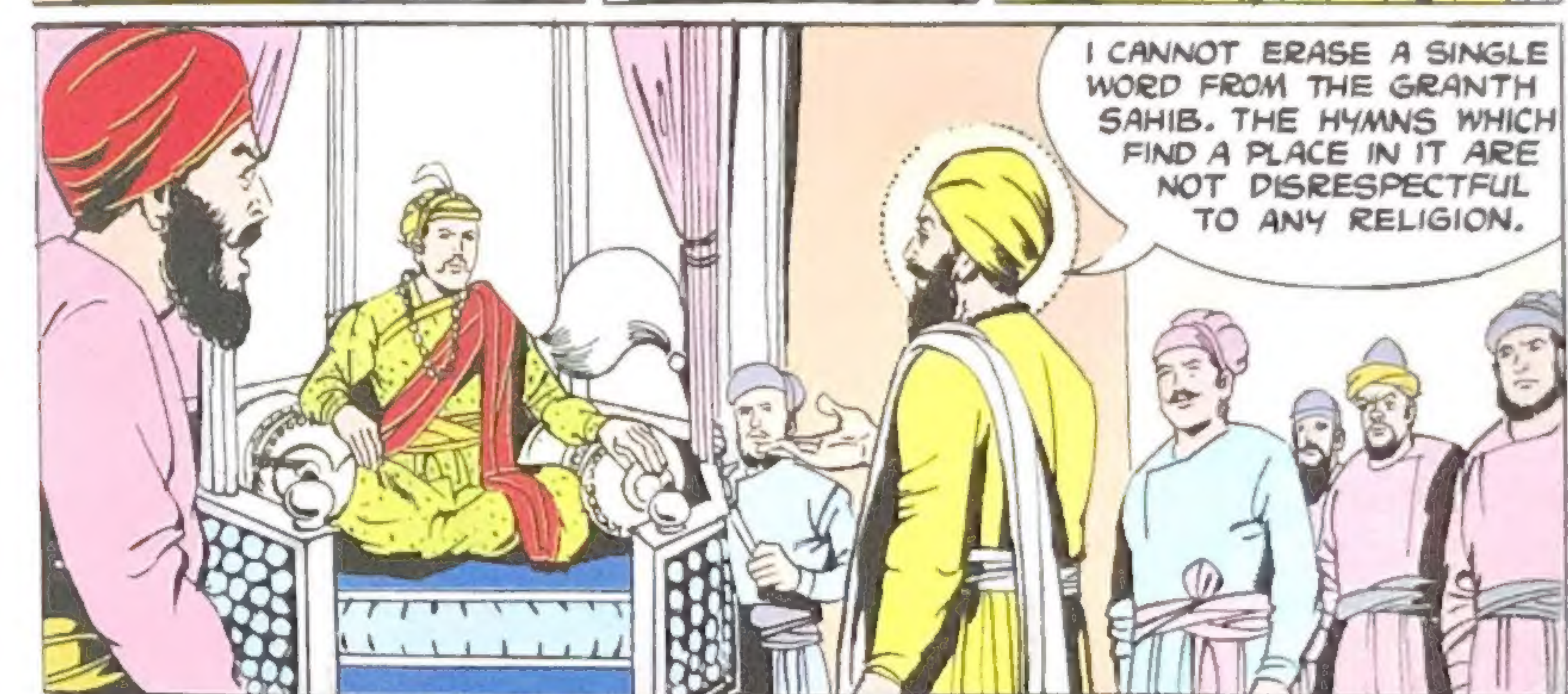
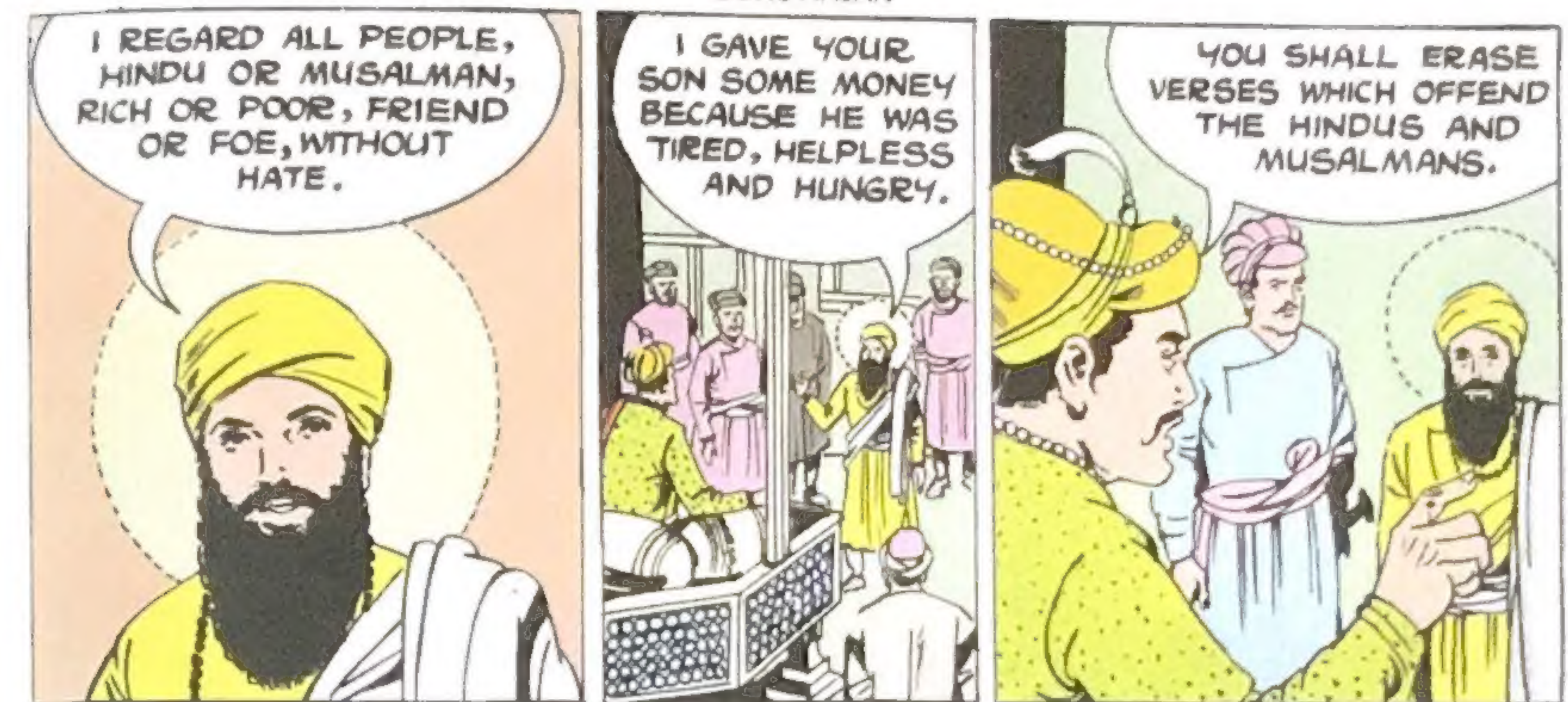
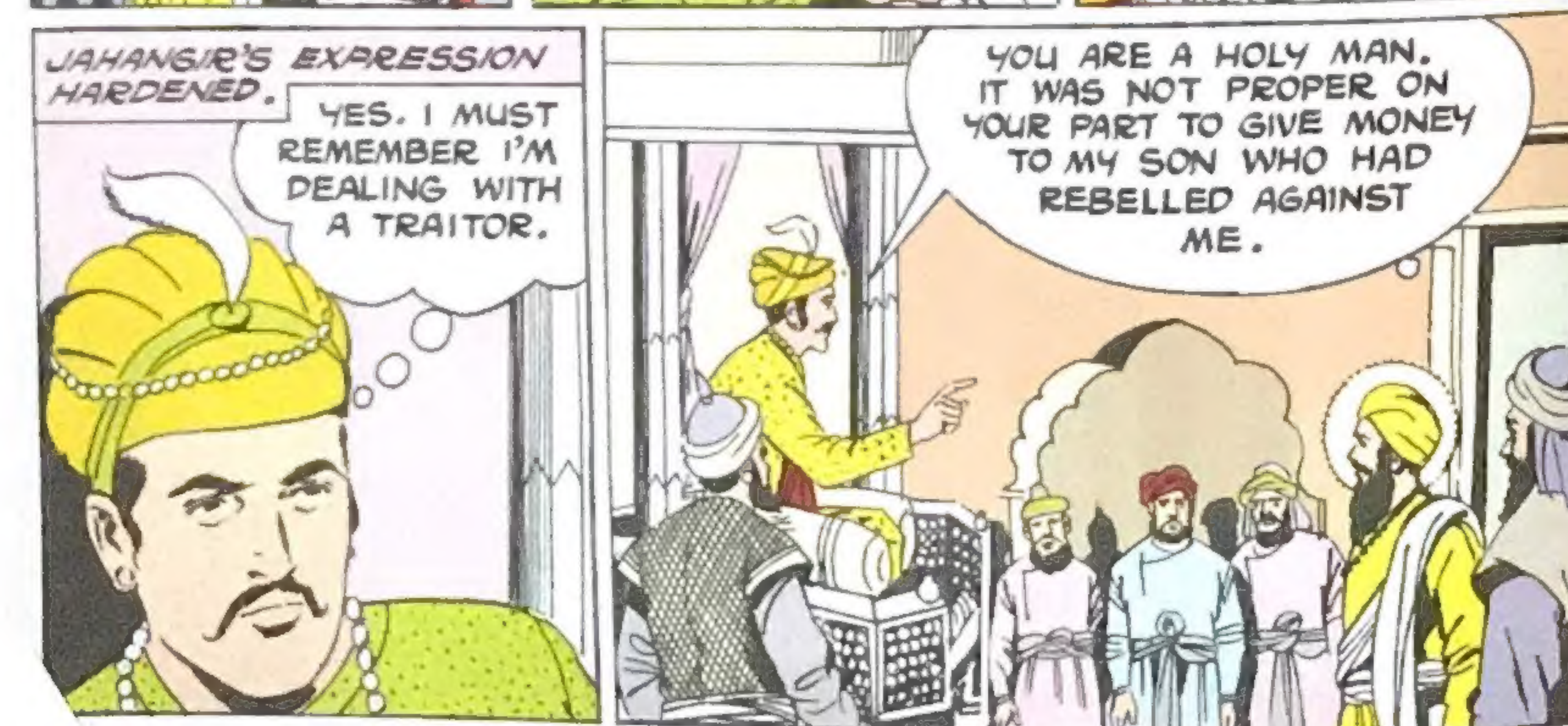
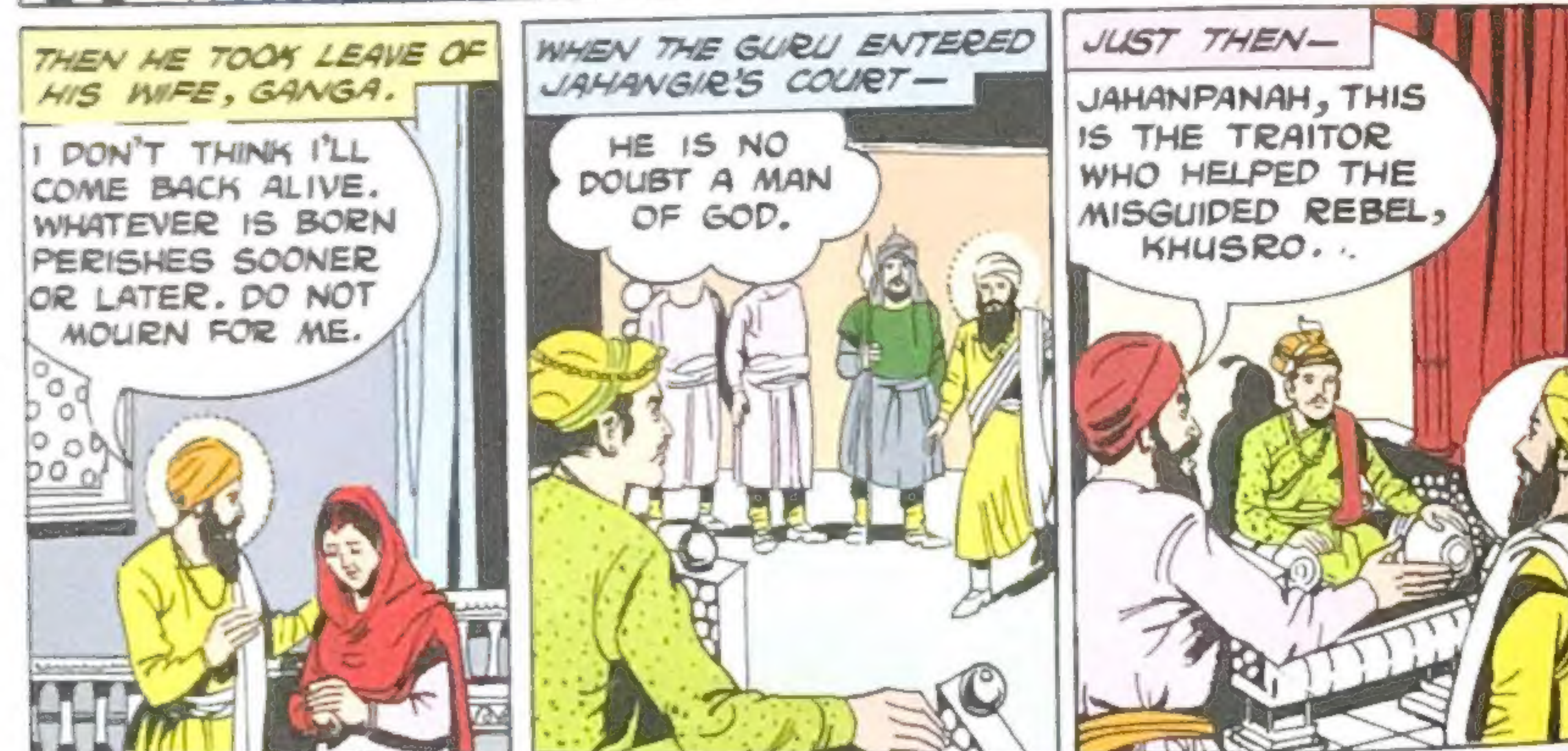
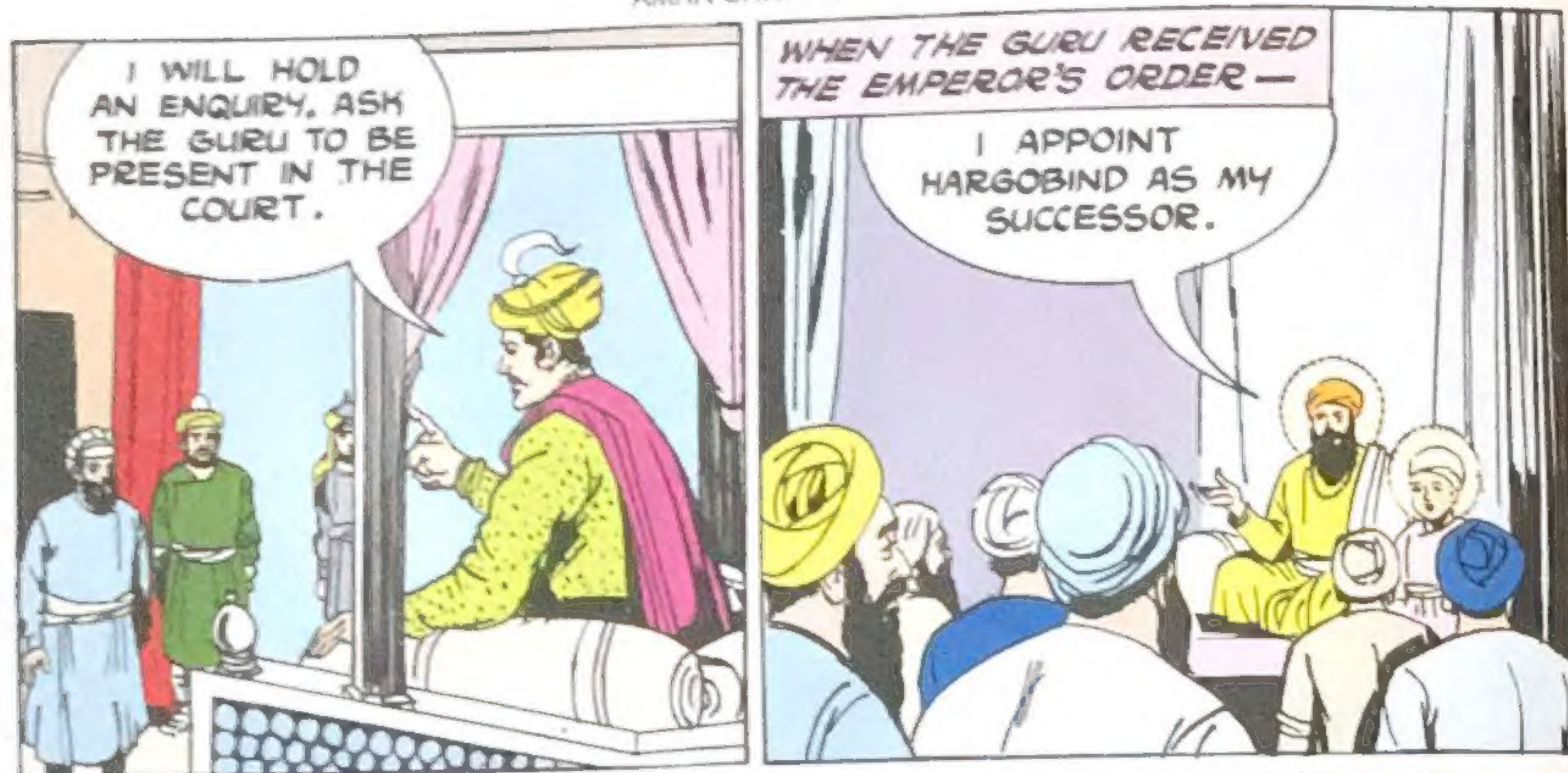
AND  
OUR WAY OF  
WORSHIP.



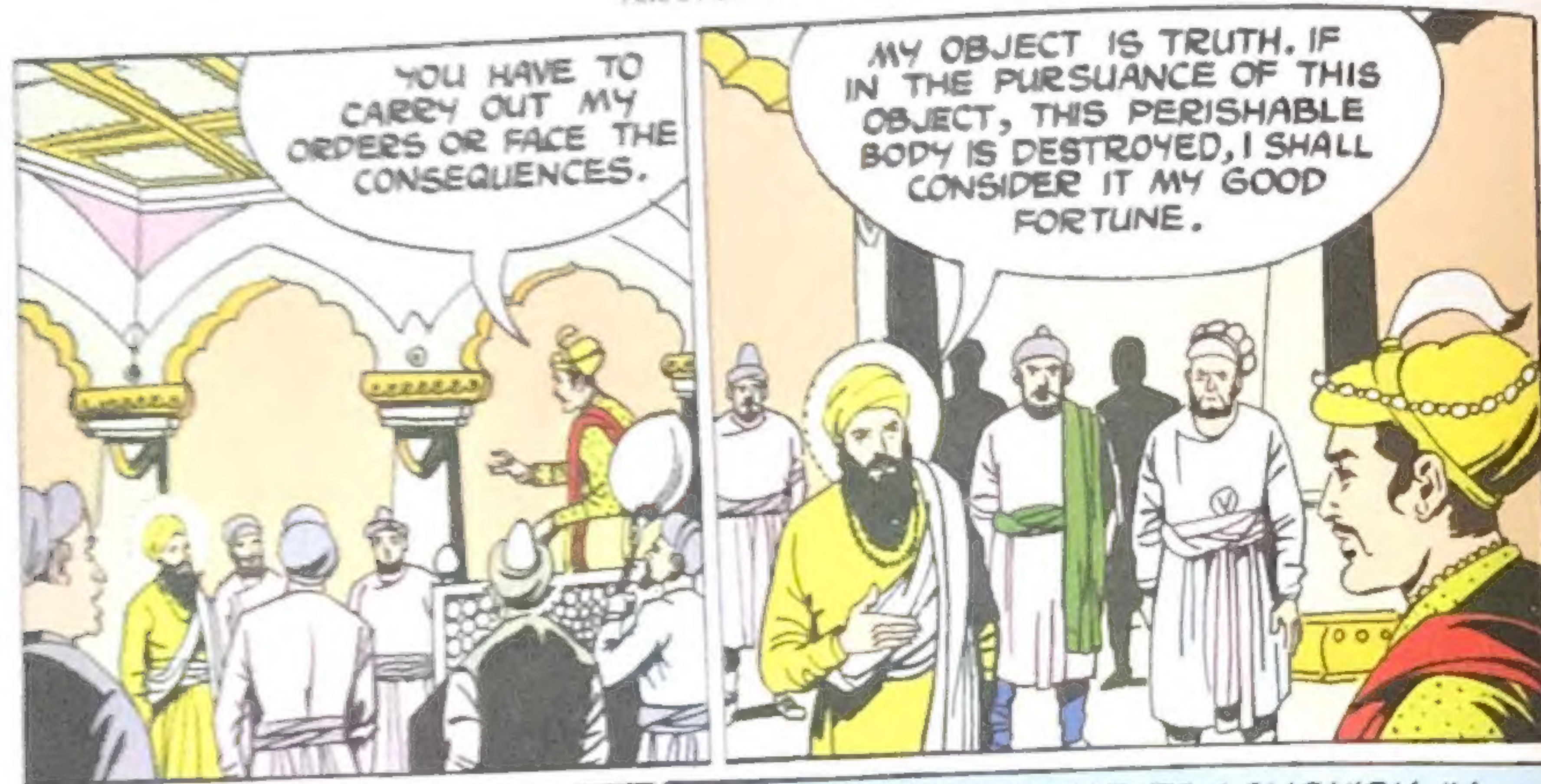
YES, JAHANPANAH,  
HIS BOOK IS FULL OF  
PASSAGES WHICH  
HURT THE RELIGIOUS  
SENTIMENTS OF THE  
HINDUS AND THE  
MUSLIMS.



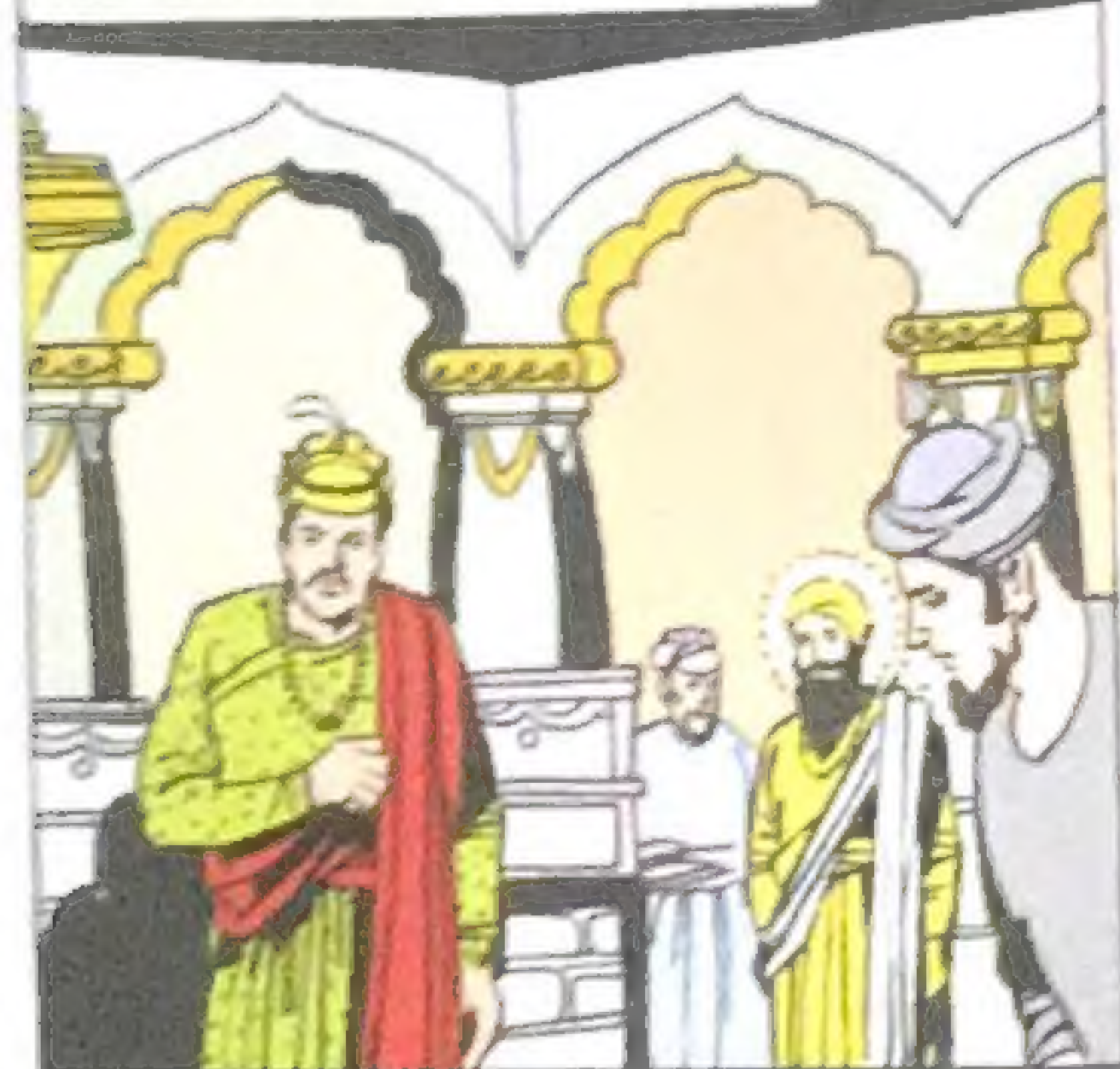




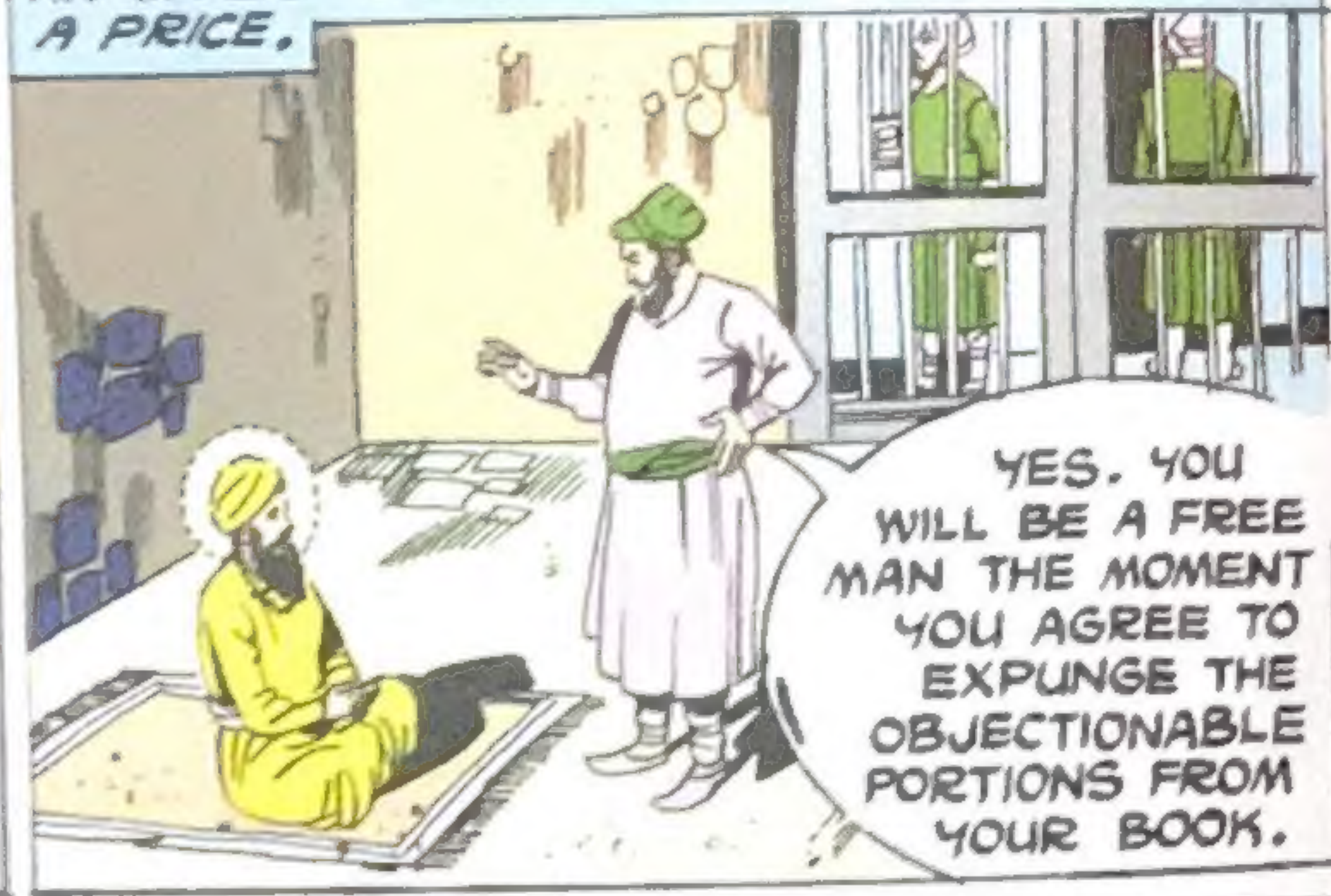




THE EMPEROR MADE NO REPLY. HE GOT UP AND LEFT.



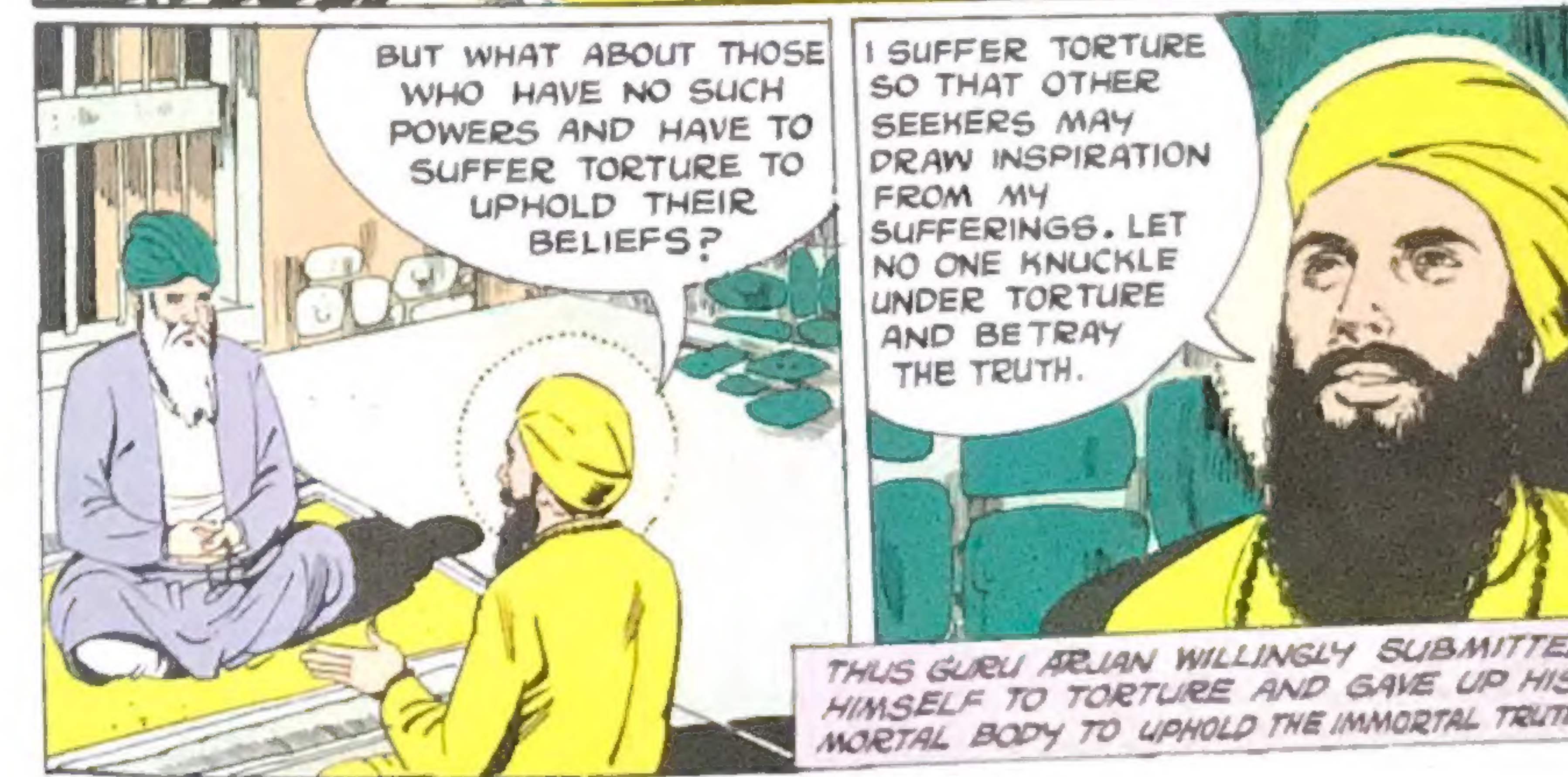
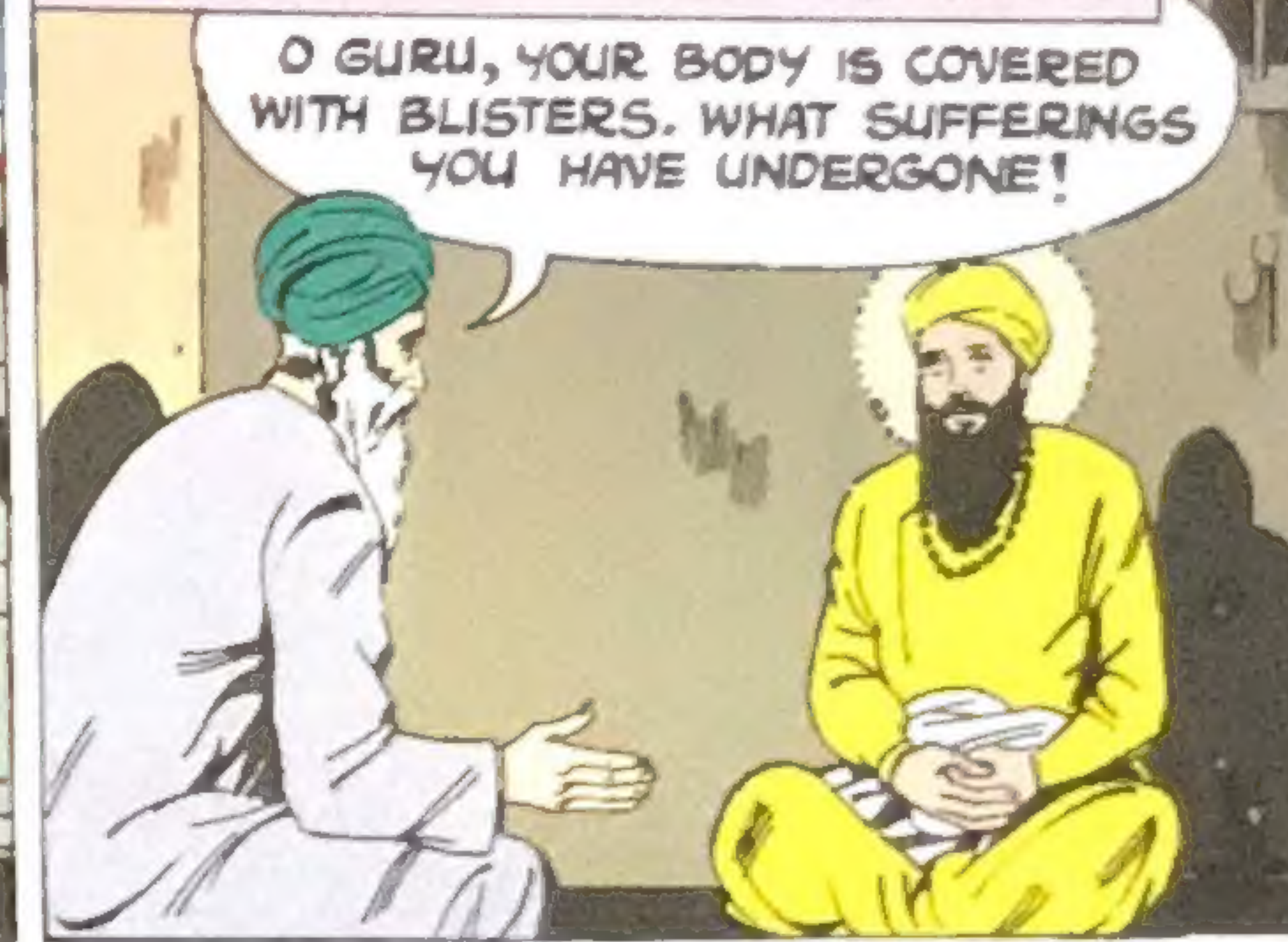
THUS THE GURU CHOSE TO LANGUISH IN A CELL. A FEW DAYS LATER HE RECEIVED AN OFFER FOR RELEASE FROM PRISON— AT A PRICE.



IT WAS NO EMPTY THREAT. THE GURU WAS SUBJECTED TO SEVERE TORTURE. YET HE DID NOT GROAN IN PAIN NOR DID HE CURSE HIS TORMENTORS IN ANGUISH. HE BORE IT ALL WITH EQUANIMITY.



MIAN MIR, THE MUSLIM SAINT, AN OLD FRIEND AND ADMIRER, BURST INTO TEARS WHEN HE VISITED THE GURU.







Amritsar



Guru Ramdas, the fourth Guru, initiated the construction of the pool he called Amritsar – the pool of nectar.

His son, Guru Arjan, completed it, and also had a temple, the Har Mandir, built in the middle of the pool.



However, the temple he built was destroyed several times by Afghan invaders.



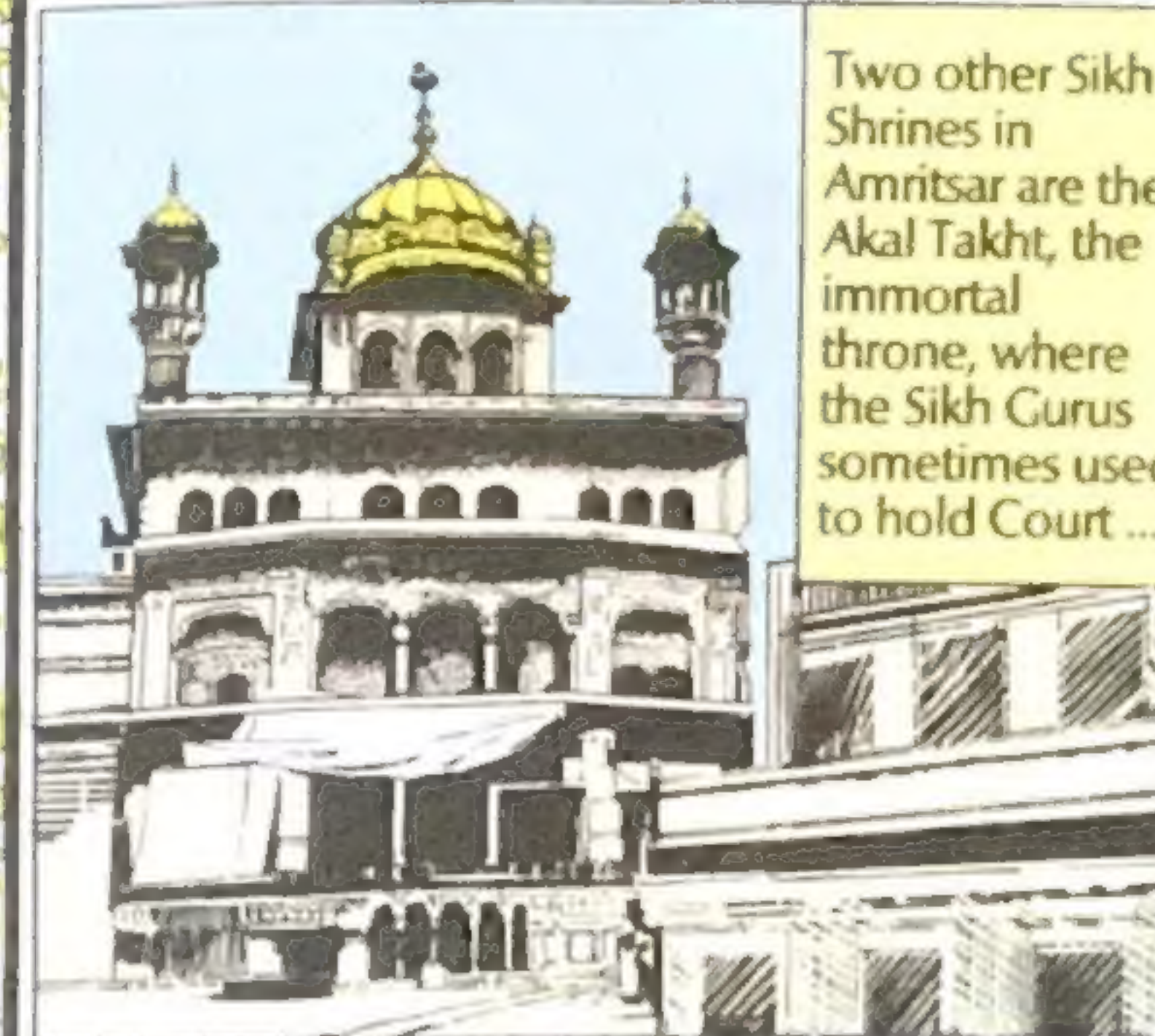
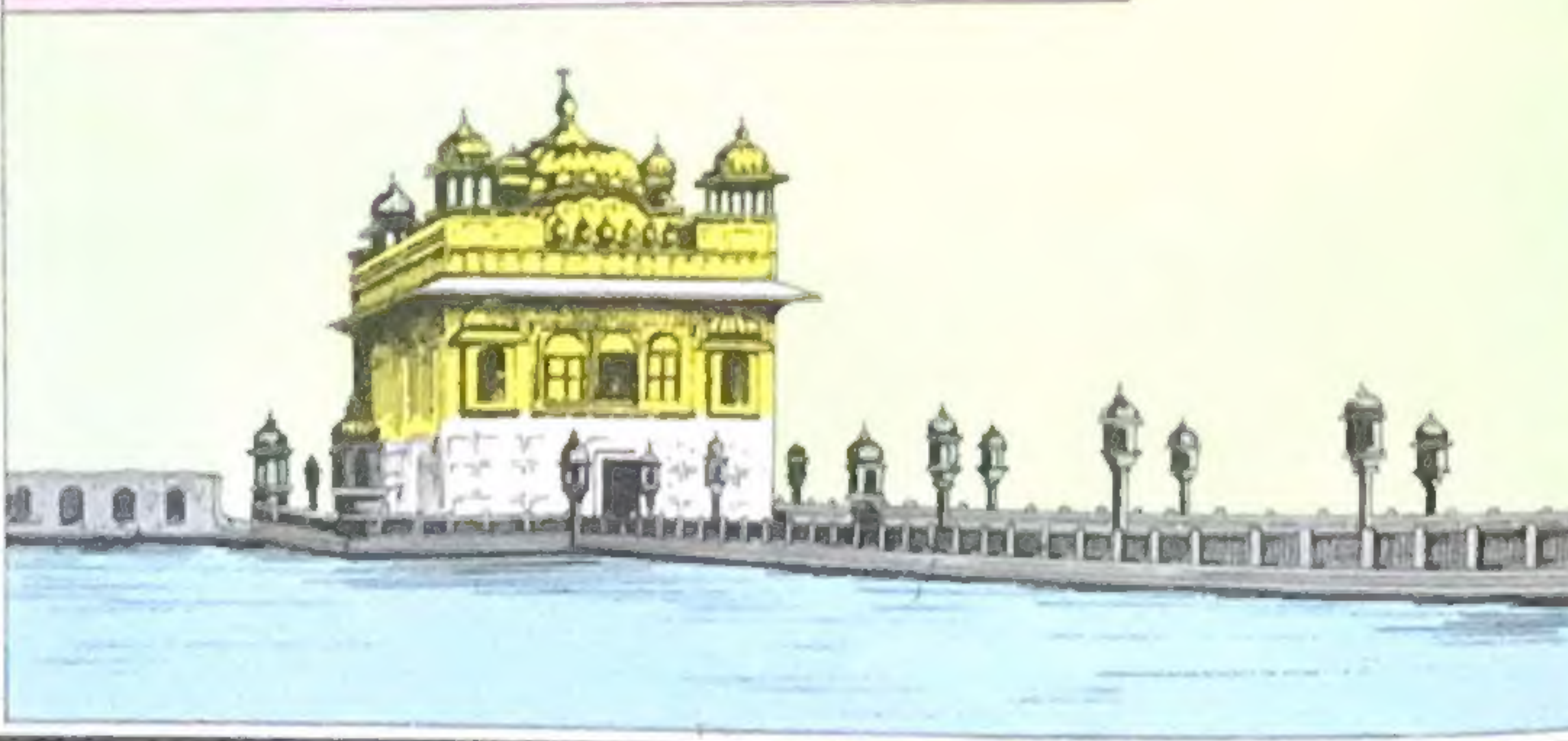
The temple as it stands today came into being in 1764. Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims contributed money for the renovation of the temple.



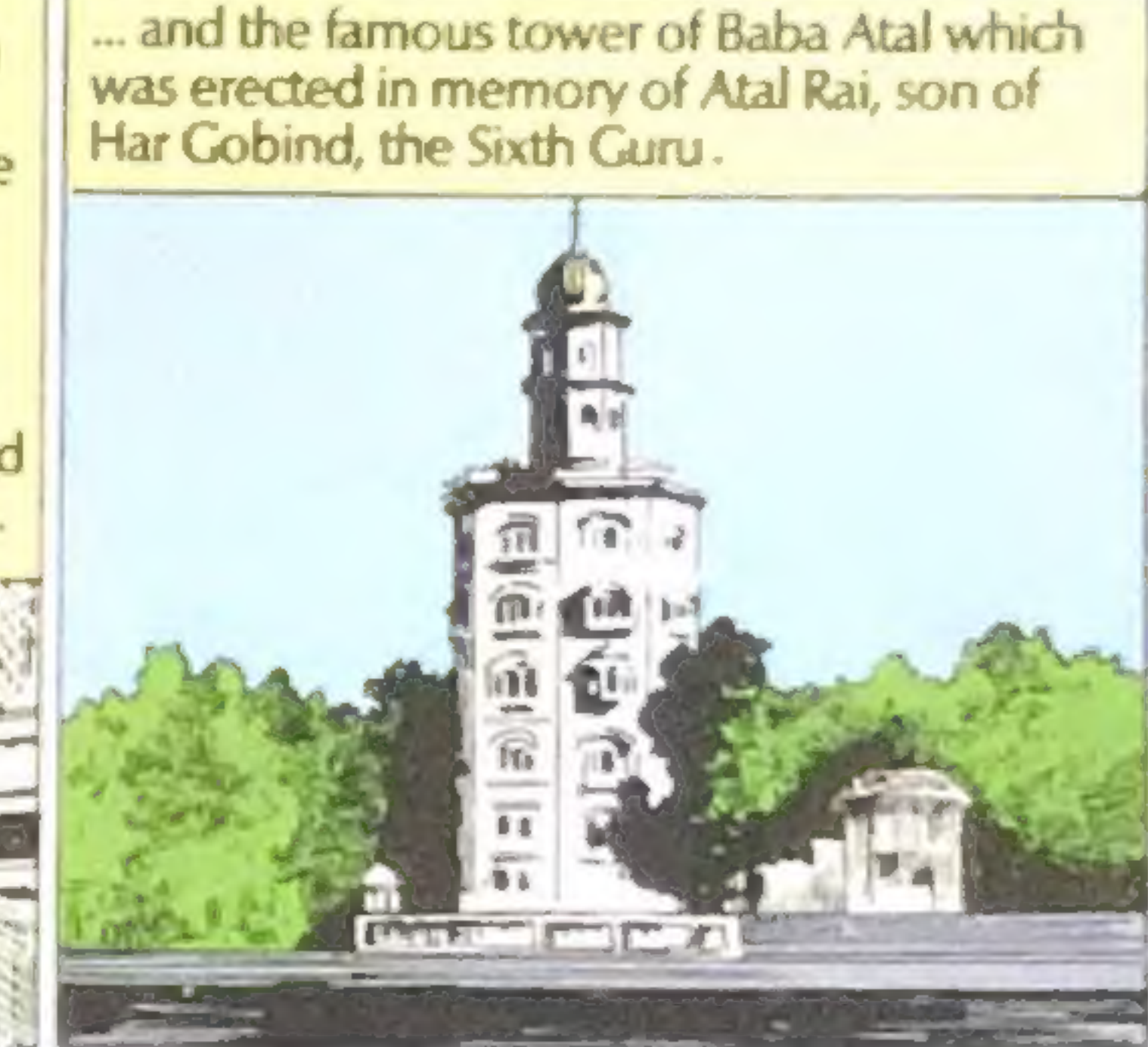
Then in 1803, Maharaja Ranjit Singh gave a donation of five lakhs ...



... to rebuild the temple in marble and copper, overlaid with gold foil.

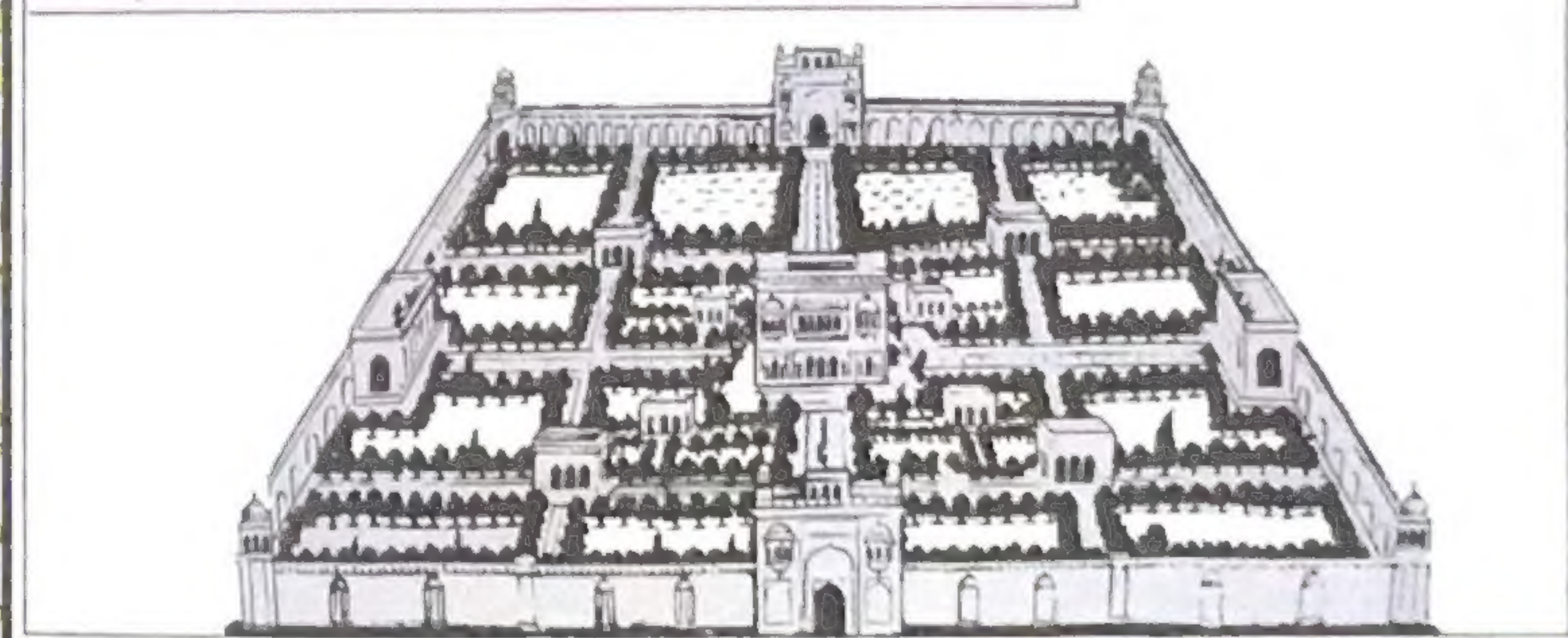


Two other Sikh Shrines in Amritsar are the Akal Takht, the immortal throne, where the Sikh Gurus sometimes used to hold Court ...

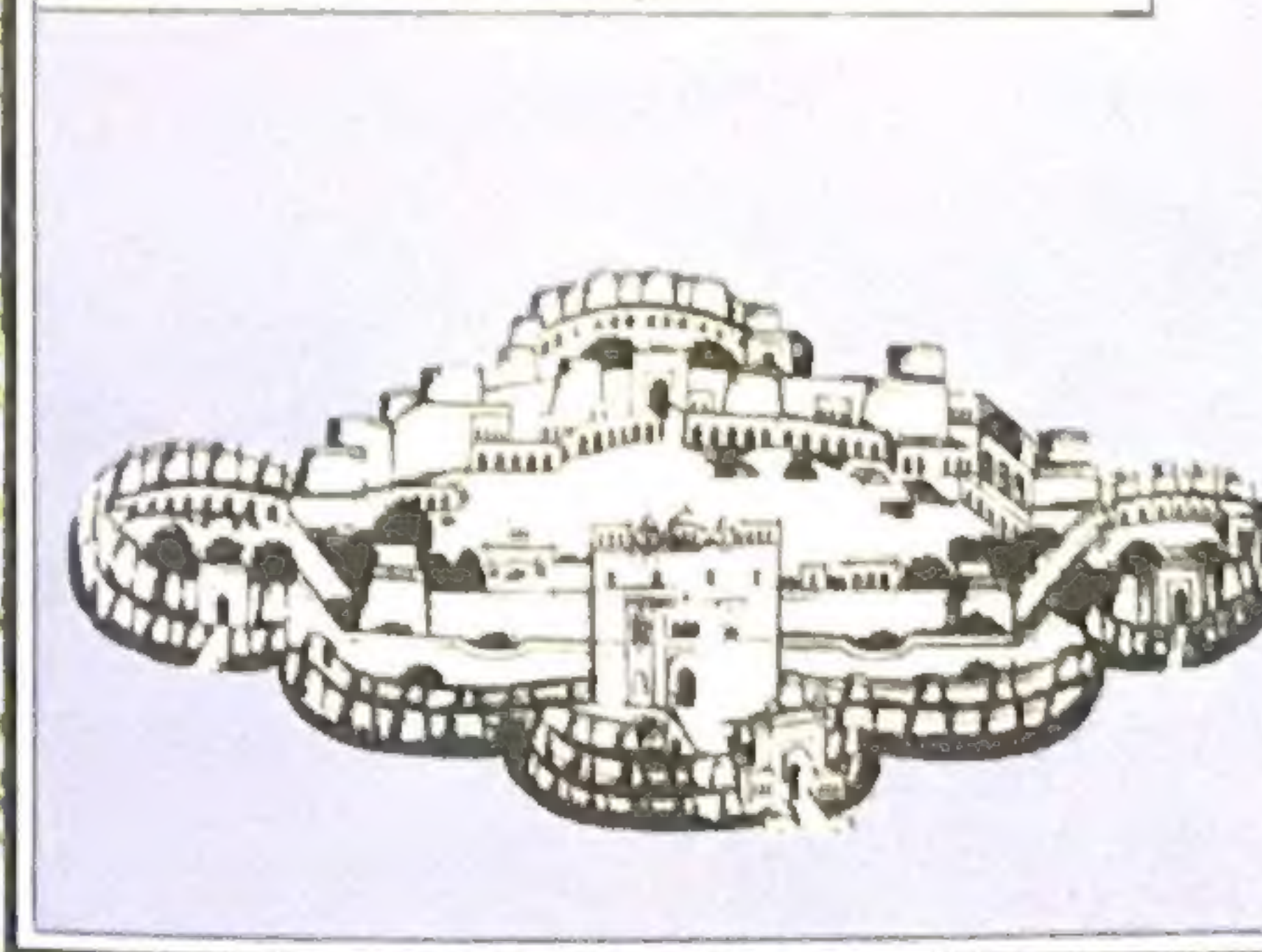


... and the famous tower of Baba Atal which was erected in memory of Atal Rai, son of Har Gobind, the Sixth Guru.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh used to visit Amritsar at regular intervals. For his stay there, he built a small palace in the Rambagh gardens.



He also built a fort, Govindgarh, outside Amritsar.



At Jallianwalla Bagh, not far from Har Mandir, is the memorial to the martyrs of the massacre of April 13, 1919.

